'Rota lives paycheck to paycheck.' » PAGE 5

Daughter talks about father's knife attack in Korea coffee shop. » PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Submerged lands deal a long time coming'

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» Villagomez hopes co-management deal signed during Torres administration

A marine advocate from the islands said he would like to see the co-management agreement between the CNMI and the federal government for the submerged lands around the Farallon de Pajaros, Maug, and Asuncion signed during the administration Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Villagomez

Angelo O'Connor Villagomez, an officer with The Pew Charitable Trusts and co-founder of Beautify CNMI, said that "the process has been slow."

"I would have liked it to have been taken cared of two administrations ago. It should have been taken cared of while [Ben] Fitial was governor, but it's dragged on,"

See LANDS on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

'REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL'

Catholics marked the beginning of the Lenten season as they observed Ash Wednesday yesterday. Devotees had their foreheads marked with blessed ashes from burned palm leaves symbolizing penance and the dust from which God created human beings.

Best Sunshine vice president Browne files for bankruptcy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Browne

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. vice president Donald R. Browne has filed a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy petition in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Under Chapter 13 Bankruptcy, debtors propose a repayment plan to make installments to creditors over three to five years. Also known as reorganization bankruptcy, it enables individuals with regular income to develop a plan to repay all or part of their debts, according to U.S. courts.

Attorney Alexis Fallon filed yesterday the bankruptcy petition for Donald Browne and his wife, Sarah A. Browne.

Mr. Browne listed

See BROWNE on Page 4

Igisomar, Kilili discuss exception of cabotage in CNMI

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) and U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) discussed the merits and pitfalls of having the Commonwealth exempted from federal cabotage laws to allow foreign airlines travel to or from Guam and the CNMI, according to letters between the two officials in recent weeks.

U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) have introduced a bill—S.2360—that Igisomar believes would exempt American Samoa from cabotage and "allow foreign airlines to land on American Samoa and then another U.S. territory or Compact Impact Nation."

Currently, cabotage law prevents foreign airlines form traveling solely

See IGISOMAR on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

Professor Rose Cuison Villazor was named Mt. Carmel's School AlumKnight of the Year at its annual alumni fundraising banquet, Night with the Knights, last Saturday.

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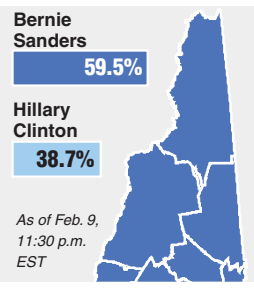

NATION

Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders rode a wave of voter frustration with American politics to commanding victories in Tuesday's New Hampshire primaries.

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LIFE & STYLE

Fox comedy "New Girl" would continue filming episodes while the show's star, Zooey Deschanel, is on maternity leave.

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Local

Villazor named MCS AlumKnight of the Year

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Professor Rose Cuison Villazor was named Mt. Carmel's School AlumKnight of the Year at its annual alumni fundraising banquet, Night with the Knights, last Saturday as a part of Catholic Schools Week. The MCS class of 1991 graduate and mother of two is the first non-indigenous recipient of the prestigious award.

While she was not present to receive the award due to her teaching schedule, Villazor delivered her acceptance speech via video.

She recounted singing Church hymns throughout her years at MCS and singing the same songs in her church in the mainland. The songs, she said, made her feel a sense of belonging.

"As a child of Filipino contract workers growing up in early '90s, I did not always feel like I belonged," Villazor, who moved with her family from the Philippines to Saipan in the 1980s, said in her remarks.

Despite derogatory terms being used to describe foreign families like hers, she explained that singing songs in church made her feel "at peace and a part of the community."

"It reminds me that I am part of something bigger: a larger Catholic community." She added, "[The songs] serve to remind all of us of God's calling to love others, neighbors, strangers, even outsiders and to show them that they too are God's people and therefore they belong to our community."

Villazor has worked as a law professor in some of the world's most prestigious law programs, including at Hofstra University, Columbia University, UC Berkeley, and UC Davis.

Her lifelong passion for teaching began at MCS, where she taught social studies after earning her Bachelors of Arts degree in Government from the University of Texas at Austin. Following her time at her alma mater, Villazor matriculated to American University in Washington, D.C., graduating cum laude as a Myers Law Scholarship Recipient and a Valentin Fuentes Fellow.

THOMAS MANGLONA II

Mt. Carmel School's 2016 AlumKnight of the Year, Class of 1991 graduate professor Rose Cuison Villazor.

A longtime human rights advocate, Villazor is also a published law author in publications such as the California Law Review, New York University Law Review, *Huffington Post*, and *New York Times*.

Villazor also published numerous books as a co-editor and conducts extensive lectures around the world while researching and writing in areas regarding immigration and citizenship law, property law, Asian Americans and the law, equal protection law and critical race theory.

"In her work as a professor, scholar, and writer, [Villazor] has distinguished herself as one of the country's most sought after legal minds on immigration law, having appeared on television panels on C-SPAN," school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said in his remarks.

Currently, the professor is working on research about the history of "non-citizen national status" and its contemporary implications on citizenship; the immigration status of guest workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and whether they should be granted a path to citizenship; and the federal regulation of marriage in Germany post-World War II.

"As an advocate, she is passionate but open to other perspectives. As a scholar, she is erudite yet down-to-earth. And as a teacher, she is challenging but supportive," Guerrero added.

He noted that, as past awardees, recognized AlumKnights have distinguished themselves as noted leaders in business, government, and the community.

CHCVA sets meeting on Feb. 15

The Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association is pleased to announce and invite members of the general public from all walks of life to attend the next community meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 15, 10am at the CHC CE Conference Room (next to the Cafeteria).

The two main agenda are to welcome new volunteers and members to the board of directors and to plan for CHCVA's 30th anniversary fundraising and spectacular celebration.

CHCVA was duly chartered as a non-profit association 29 years ago and has raised over $2 million all from the generosity of individual members of our community, the business sector, and local and off-island groups. The grassroots community raised funds have been contributed to our lone public hospital—CHC—by way of purchasing an array of patient care equipment and supplies. About 5 percent had been donated to individuals and/or community organizations to improve and/or assist in health care services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

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NMHC studies proposal on 'self-excluding' low-income families from going to casino

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

A proposal to "self-exclude" low-income families from going to casino and gaming establishments was discussed by the board and management of the Northern Marianas Housing Council.

At their board meeting yesterday, NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios shared to the board a meeting that they had with the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the Division of Nutrition Assistance Program of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs regarding the commission's proposal.

"The purpose of the meeting was to help the Food Stamp office and housing try to work with them. They're trying to exclude families, who are receiving some kind of federal or local assistance, from gambling. Their concern is that since these families are already considered low-income or no-income, they shouldn't be going to play poker or go to the Best Sunshine [Live] casino," Palacios said.

He added that the casino commission said it would take care of the enforcement.

Palacios said they were asked to review the proposal as well as a draft "self-exclusion" form that clients could sign voluntarily. The form would include a photo of the client as and they would choose whether they would exclude themselves for a period of one year, five years, or a lifetime.

However, in his inquiry with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Palacios said the federal agency advised against it.

"They asked us if that is allowed by our regulations or by the feds, so I asked our federal office in Honolulu, HUD field office, and they said that it's kind of discriminatory to exclude certain income families from doing what they want to do and if it's not one of our requirements then we shouldn't approve the exclusion," Palacios said

"HUD also mentioned that in Nevada, the public housing agencies there do not exclude their clients from casinos," he added.

Director Aubrey Hocog lauded the commission for their efforts, but the board had various views on the subject.

"I applaud the efforts of the Saipan gaming commission, I think they are just trying to find ways to I guess reduce the social conflict right here on Saipan and the CNMI," Hocog said.

Director Ignacio Kiyoshi said he disagrees with the proposed measure and that NMHC shouldn't get involved as the federal agency had advised.

"I disallow that," Kiyoshi said, "If we restrict one from entering casino, there are various activities out there that are going to be widespread gambling activities."

Kiyoshi added that clients who have loans just need to make sure that they are able to pay their obligations.

"Whoever's in charge for that loan, they just need to be on top of things to make sure that they do make those payments, outside of that, that's basically their discretion," Kiyoshi said.

Director Dave Demapan noted that the operator should have their own regulations on those who don't have the resources to play in their establishment and that the commission should just work directly with the operator.

"An operator normally would establish rules and procedures to make sure that whoever those players, who don't have the income necessary to survive, they have certain regulations how to restrict that," Demapan said.

He added that they should stick with the policies and procedures that they have and the client should just follow the agreement they signed with NMHC for their obligations.

"We're all human beings, everybody is looking for luck whether you're rich or poor," Demapan said.

Director Diego Songao shared that on Rota, they also found that to be discriminatory, however, he said that NMHC could include in their loan applications a section for clients to identify themselves if they are chronic gamblers and that would be a criteria or basis for loan approvals.

Director Ignacio Perez also wanted the proactive approach to possible implications of gambling to a client's ability to pay their obligations. He mentioned that they could have a briefing with clients that if they are deficient or late in their payments attributed to gambling, they will be terminated.

The topic was tabled by the board for further discussion.

McFun Run organizers want companies' support

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Organizers of the Rotary McFun Run is asking companies and employers to join the I'm Lovin' It division of the second edition of the running event set on Feb. 20, which starts and ends at the Carolinian Utt across Bank of Guam in Garapan.

The Rotary Club of Saipan is organizing the event with McDonald's as the main sponsor. They presented a $3,000 check to Rotary officials led by president Curtis Dancoe, vice president Brian Clayton, and president-elect Ivan Ilmov during the club's meeting last Tuesday at Giovanni's at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Companies and employers are encouraged to field a minimum of 10 or a maximum of 15 of their personnel in the I'm Lovin' It team division.

"It is a corporate division where we hope to get a lot of the companies involve. Our goal is to also get sponsors where he would pay the fee of the 10 participants," said Rotary director and former president Ben Babauta.

"The event will also help promote a healthy environment in the work place or with your family since it would sort of become a team building or bonding time for all," Babauta added.

"The challenge now is to get more participants. It would be nice to see a lot of people join the event. The more participants, the more fun it is for everyone," said McDonald's shift manager Joe Ayuyu Jr.

Dancoe said that AK Toyota and SPD & Associates have also committed to signing up to 10 members each.

Registration forms are available at T-Galleria's security booth area, AK Toyota in San Jose and Megabyte in Gualo Rai. You could also register on race day at 5:30am and the race starts at 6:15am.

The race is divided into 5 kilometer (from Carolinian Utt and turning around at Star Water) and 10K (Carolinian Utt turn around at Oleai Bar & Grill) distances.

Registration fees are $10 for students (Under-17) and $15 for adults, which include a T-shirt and refreshments. The top finishers will be receiving prizes as well.

All proceeds of the fund-raising running event will go to Rotary's funds to support its community projects. Last year, close to 200 joined and the run raised $3,000.

For more information, call Babauta (483-2563) or Sonya Dancoe (287-7368).

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NMI Youth Summit hopes to tear down stereotypes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

To tear down the stereotypes of today's youth is one of the goals of yesterday's whole-day Youth Summit, where members of the 15th CNMI Youth Congress and students from the other schools listened to different speakers discuss various issues that affect the Commonwealth. The Youth Summit was held at the Pacific Islands Club's Napu Room.

CNMI Youth Congress Speaker Thomas Manglona II said the stereotypes that kids these days are lazy, just play video games, and are no longer interested in issues that affect them are not true.

"I've mentioned that there's an opportunity for us to learn. We are focused on creating and finding solutions. We gather suggestions from our peers and from our speakers today and present a resolution," said Manglona.

"That's why everything that we gathered in the summit will be used as part for creating a resolution when the Youth Congress resumes our session in April," he added.

The CNMI Youth senators and 40 students from different public and private schools listened as U.S. Attorney General for the Districts of Guam and CNMI Alicia Limtiaco, Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts director Jenny Hegland, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. public information officer Brad Ruszala, and Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) spoke on topics that affect them.

Limtiaco talked about cyber-bullying and effects of social media and domestic violence; Hegland and Ruszala discussed the ongoing recovery efforts for Typhoon Soudelor relief, and Igisomar, who is part of the policy committee on the interagency "ice" task force, spoke about the ongoing war against methamphetamine or "ice.'

Manglona said he and the seven youth senators would meet before the session starts in April to discuss the information that they gathered in the Youth Summit.

"Yes, we're still students and not that experienced as policymakers, but we too have a part in finding solutions with our present problems. We have an entire day to discuss the issues and we would come up with a resolution in April," Manglona said.

He added that members of the 15th CNMI Youth Congress are also hoping that the other private schools would be represented in the future. Kagman, Marianas, Saipan Southern, Tinian, and Dr. Rita H. Inos junior and senior high schools, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Mt. Carmel School are currently represented in the Youth Congress.

"Four of us members of the Youth Congress are graduating after this school year so there will be an election in a few months," said Manglona.

"We want to recruit more Youth Congress members. We want students and youths from Agape Christian School, Eucon, Saipan International School, and other schools to have representatives in the Youth Congress," he added.

Vice Speaker Roselyn B. Tangal (MHS), Floor Leader Kayjon Bradley T. Boadi (KHS), Legislative Secretary Reynafe N. Aniga (SSHS), Sens. Catherine C. Manglona (DRHIJSHS), William P. Hinson (GCA), Henry Kyle B. Hofschneider (MBA), Gerald K. Crisostomo (TJSHS) are the other Youth Congress members.

JON PEREZ

CNMI Youth Congress Speaker Thomas Manglona II addresses the members of the Youth Summit after Sen. Sixto Igisomar's talk on the government's war on 'ice' campaign in yesterday's 15th CNMI Youth Congress Youth Summit at the Napu room of the Pacific Islands Club.

Senate passes bills that aim to stifle copper wire theft

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Senate passed yesterday two bills of Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) that aim to crack down on copper wire theft and the sale of stolen items to pawnshops.

Senate bill 19-68 amends current Commonwealth code to task a withholding period of ten days for the payment of copper wire sale.

A recycler, at the time of making a purchase of copper wire worth $50, or more, must withhold the payment of the copper wire purchase for ten days, the bill states.

The recycler musts document the sale in accordance with this chapter, and must provide a copy of the sale receipt to the Department of Public Safety commissioner within three days of the sale transaction.

After the 10th business day from the date of the sale, the recycler may pay by cash or check mailed to the seller or collected by the seller unless otherwise instructed by Public Safety.

A recycler who violates the payment withholding or failure to provide the sale receipt as required in this subsection shall be penalized $500 for imprisonment of not more than one year, or both, the bill states.

"Copper wire theft causes business owners and residents financial loss and disrupts electrical service to homes, stores, and other structures when the wires are stolen and sold at recycling centers." It is "necessary to implement a ten-day waiting period on payment…to further deter copper wire theft," the bill states.

S.B. 19-69 amends Commonwealth code to provide similar reporting and withholding statutes as S.B. 19-68.

The bill argues that requiring pawnshops to report an item over to DPS before sale will "deter the sale of stolen items and help DPS better track stolen items."

IGISOMAR

From Page 1

between two U.S./territory airports, Igisomar said. The foreign airline must return back to a foreign point after landing at one U.S./territory airport.

Igisomar proposed that the bill be amended to provide the same exemption to the CNMI and Guam, as cabotage law applies to in the region.

"Since 2006 with the departure of Japan Airlines and other airlines, the CNMI has endured diminished air transportation traffic. I truly believe that with a cabotage exception, the CNMI can tremendously boost its air transportation traffic and revenue, and create more competition thereby driving down the airfare prices," Igisomar said, requesting that Sablan offer an amendment to the bill to reflect these concerns.

But Sablan, in a letter to Igisomar on Feb. 4., attempts to corrects Igisomar's understanding of the bill.

Sablan said the bill would not expand authorization to allow foreign airlines to fly between American Samoa and another U.S. territory or Compact nation, but would allow a foreign carrier to provide service solely between the American Samoa islands of Tutuila and Manu'a.

Sablan said this would be allowed without the requirement to have an emergency service waiver for the route renewed every thirty.

Still, he said, the Secretary of Transportation would be required to revoke the emergency service waiver for any foreign airlines in the event that a U.S. carrier entered the market.

"What you really seek is to exempt foreign airlines from federal cabotage laws altogether for flights to and from Rota, Tinian, Saipan, Guam, and international destinations," Sablan said in his letter.

Sablan said he appreciated the frustration "we have all experienced" with the increased cost and diminished convenience of reliable air travel, but that lifting cabotage would not guarantee that a foreign carrier would enter the market or that a foreign carrier would duplicate the routes currently being served by domestic carriers.

Sablan said it is essentially—before changing the law—to understand fully the effect that competition or foreign carriers would have on domestic carriers. "I believe it would be a mistake to take any action that could drive out U.S. carriers, leaving Rota and Tinian without any air service at all or placing the Saipan-Guam route in the hands of a single, foreign carrier."

Sablan said he would not want to move forward without input from local lawmakers, the governor, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and from local businesses that would be affected. He also suggested that Igisomar obtain the agreement of the government of Guam, so that all stakeholders agree with Igisomar's position.

BROWNE

From Page 1

casino vice president as his occupation and named Imperial Pacific International as his employer's name.

Mr. Browne said his monthly gross income is $21,154, but his monthly take home pay is $15,882. Mrs. Browne said she is not employed.

The couple claimed that their total assets are $218,533 and their total liabilities are $178,562.

The couple's debts are primarily consumer debts, including several credit cards.

LANDS

From Page 1

Villagomez said.

"I'd like to see it during this administration, but I would rather have had it done two administrations ago," he added.

Last January, Torres wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewel to reignite discussion regarding the agreement.

Saipan Tribune reported that negotiations have been idle since July due to concerns on the federal government's final position on the agreement which has terms that go beyond what is required for transfer and binds the local government to expend large amounts of capital and resources on management plans that federal authorities could ultimately reject, and would unduly restrict the Commonwealth's ownership of these lands, according government officials.

Villagomez noted that both governments want the same thing.

"It seems that the CNMI and the federal government want the same thing. Both governments want to see the submerged lands transferred to the CNMI, both governments want to see the Marianas Trench monument protected," Villagomez said.

"What they're doing right now is arguing over the details, over the dollar amounts that are attached to it and that's perfectly reasonable," he added.

For Villagomez, a third party could be beneficial to both governments.

"As [Senator] Arnold Palacios said, this decision could actually be made pretty quickly and I think the governments might benefit from some arbitration, maybe if there is a third party, like an NGO, that works with both sides, that could help them to an agreement. I do think both governments want the same thing," he said.

Once there is an agreement and the transfer is made to the local government, Villagomez noted that it will be the "first time that the CNMI would have control of those waters around those islands" as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was signed after the Covenant was established.

Included in President Barack Obama's exemption from transfer is the 3-nautical mile stretch of lands around the said islands within the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

"I'm hopeful that they'll figure out a way to work together to make this work for the benefit of the people," Villagomez said.

Villagomez, among the few who were able to visit some of the Northern Islands in 2009, said that the site could be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site as well as other significant sites in the CNMI.

"The North Field, the world's largest Air Force base during World War II, we got the latte stones, the Marianas Trench, the Maug lagoon—the only place where chemosynthesis and photosynthesis at the same time. There's boiling pools of sulfur, there's deep sea volcanic vents. There are these cool cultural and historic sites that would be valid as world heritage sites," Villagomez said.

‘Rota lives paycheck to paycheck’

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) is back in the Senate.

Manglona, a longtime senator and former Senate president, was sworn in during a Senate session yesterday to officially take the vacated seat of former Senate president Victor B. Hocog, after the latter ascended to the post of lieutenant governor following the passing of the late governor Eloy S. Inos last December. Manglona finished third in the last Rota Senate election.

When pressed for issues he’d like to work on, Manglona said he did not have any particular legislation but noted discussions he laid out with many people “since retiring a year ago.”

He stressed a need to work on “economic challenges” and pledged to work with the members of the Senate to address these.

Manglona wants legislation that will go a long way to address hardships faced especially by the people of Rota.

“Over here [Saipan] people are really suffering but the suffering down on Rota is 10 times more. We have concerns with Medicaid issues on Rota because our facilities are not Medicaid approved. Our people have to fly here, pay $200, just to get medical attention.

“We no longer put people [in-patients] in the hospital. We have to send them here,” he added.

Manglona lamented the cost of shipping between islands.

“A young couple trying to build a house on Rota. They order materials, put them in a container—$3,000 to Guam or Saipan, when it gets to Saipan, pay another $4,000 just to get to Rota—so it’s a very tough.

Manglona said he is not the first one to speak about these issues. “A lot of people have moved to Saipan, Guam, and the U.S. for greener pastures. So how do we bring our people back? Give them hope, give them opportunity.”

Manglona said “it’s a payday to payday” life on Rota, where he claimed people have been selling their land cheap just to send their kids to college or provide family with healthcare.

“I am not trying to belittle the sacrifices or hardships here on Saipan,” he said, saying these issues must be addressed. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

NMHC adopts amendments to Citizen Participation Plan

Amendments on the Citizen Participation Plan have been adopted by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

NMHC board of directors passed a resolution on the amendments made by the corporation on the CPP.

The CPP sets forth NMHC’s policies and procedures for citizen participation in the planning, implementation, and assessment of its Community Planning Development funds for the Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant programs.

According to NMHC deputy director Zenie Mafnas, there are two amendments on the CPP.

The first one is the language on reprogramming eligible funds to be available during times of disaster.

“Whenever a disaster is declared, an amendment to the consolidated plan will not be considered as ‘substantial.’ Again, this is all due to Typhoon Soudelor, all the agencies, the Governor’s Office was asking what can CDBG do in this recovery effort. So we added that language in case we have another disaster and CDBG funding was going to be used for recovery efforts,” Mafnas said.

An amendment or change that is considered “substantial” needs public notices to be published that would be open for public comments for 30 days before submission.

The plan states that the public notice for the reprogrammed funds will be published at a later date.

“Due to the immediate urgency of a disaster situation, the NMHC will publish a notice at a later date to inform its citizens of a reprogramming of funds,” the CPP states.

Another CPP amendment was setting an amount for a change to be considered “substantial.”

Mafnas said that prior times they would always go to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to ask if they need to issue out notices if they would reprogram certain funds.

HUD then advised them to amend their CPP.

“The old plan doesn’t have a dollar threshold meaning how much dollar value will constitute a substantial amendment,” Mafnas said.

The revised CPP now states that, “Whenever there is a need to reprogram funds in the amount greater than $50,001,the NMHC will publish a notice of Reprogramming of Funds to the public for comments for a period of thirty days (30).”

“Anything below that threshold, we can just directly send HUD a reprogramming request. We noticed in planning that 30 days is really a long time. We can do a lot of things in that 30 days instead of just waiting around for that comment period to be over, especially if we need to use the funds immediately,” Mafnas said.

The CPP amendments were published for public comments for 15 days but no comments were received by NMHC.

Mafnas said the plan is a standard document and that it adheres to HUD regulations.

The board unanimously voted “yes” for the amendments to be adopted. ***(Fraule-ine Villanueva-Dizon)***

NEW PARADISE FLORIST
Valentine's Day
Special Arrangements
A OPTION
6 full bloom Roses with mini Roses in a Glass Vase
B OPTION
6 Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in a Glass Vase
C OPTION
1 Dozen Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in a Glass Vase
We also have: Tulips Orchids Lucky Bamboo Fruit &Wine Basket Gift Basket Roses (Comes in Different Packaging) Chocolates Stuffed Toys HVD Balloons (Choices of Mylar or Latex)
To place your order, please call 233-9875 and look for Robert.
You can also visit our shop located in Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Shell Gas Station.
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SHELL
FHB
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Polaris ride for 2
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His and Hers Valentine's Basket
IT&E
Life In Motion
ite.net / 682 4ITE *Terms & conditions apply. While supplies last. See stores for details.

IN LAWSUIT VS BUSINESSMAN ALLEGEDLY WITH ALZHEIMER DISEASE

Daughter talks about father's knife attack in Korea coffee shop

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The South Korea-based daughter of Byung Deuk Lee, a Korean businessman allegedly diagnosed with Alzheimer disease and kept away from the rest of his family, recalled her father's violence and aggression in 2015, including a knife attack at their neighbor's coffee shop.

In her declaration dated Feb. 4, 2016, Young Shin Lee, 43, a resident of Gimpo, Republic of Korea, said she is very worried about the health and safety of her father.

Attorney David G. Banes filed Young Shin Lee's declaration in Superior Court to support a motion for temporary restraining order.

At a hearing on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied the request of Lee's wife, Koom Nye Kim, and their son, Sang Hun Lee, to issue a TRO to stop the elder Lee from handling the businesses on Saipan because he was losing his mind.

The wife and son want to be appointed as guardians and handle the elder Lee's businesses.

Camacho denied the TRO after attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for Lee, presented a Jan. 13, 2016 medical report showing that Lee has a mild cognitive impairment and which would improve with medication.

Camacho set an evidentiary hearing for May 2 to determine if a temporary injunction should be granted based on what witnesses will testify about Lee's mental condition.

In her declaration, Young Shin Lee disclosed that from April until September 2015, her father lived with her and her family. She said her mother, Koom Nye Kim, also lived with them.

Young Shin Lee's brother is Sang Hun Lee, who with her mother, filed court action against Ji Sook Lee. Ji Sook Lee is the half-sister of Young Shin Lee and Sang Hun Lee.

According to Young Shin Lee, during her father's stay in Gimpo, she noticed that his mental condition was getting much worse.

She said that, on Sept. 19, 2015 she and her family attended a wedding in Seoul, leaving her father at home alone.

She said that on their way back home, they received a phone call from the owner of a coffee shop located near her parents' home.

The coffee shop owner said Lee came to the store with a knife, yelling and screaming that he was going to kill his family.

Young Shin Lee said the coffee shop owner also stated that their father had damaged the store, yelled at them, and threatened to take revenge on them for calling the police.

She said when her family got to the house, it was all a mess and that fecal matter was spread around.

She said she and her husband proceeded to the coffee shop, but police had already taken their father to the substation.

Young Shin Lee said police, however, called him and explained that they did not want them to come to the station because their father was still acting aggressive, throwing chairs and yelling.

She said police could tell something was wrong and did not even consider putting her father in jail.

Young Shin Lee submitted a copy of the police report to Superior Court.

She also disclosed that on Sept. 18, 2015, her father kicked her mother until she fell to the floor. She said he stomped on her mother, and then threw an electric fan at her.

Young Shin Lee also stated that one day, her father touched the genital area of a minor girl, causing the child to shout and cry.

She said she heard that her father arrived on Saipan last Feb. 3, but she has not been able to see him.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that Byung Deuk Lee is fine and that his purported incompetence is greatly exaggerated and without basis.

Banes stated in the lawsuit that it was Ji Sook Lee who removed Lee from hospital in South Korea, where he was diagnosed with Alzheimer, and kept him away from his family, then traveled to Saipan to control all of his businesses and property.

Among Lee's businesses on Saipan are Seoul One Korean Restaurant and Shinsen Japanese Restaurant.

Camacho denies ex-convict's request to modify $6K cash bail

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday denied a request to modify the $6,000 cash bail imposed on an ex-convict accused of checking in at a hotel and buying items at different stores using forged checks.

Camacho denied defendant James Anthony Palacios Webb's application to modify bail after finding defendant's mother, Lucia Palacios, not suitable to serve as his third-party custodian.

The judge said he knows that Palacios loves his son and that she is a religious person.

Camacho, however, noted that Palacios herself filed a temporary restraining order against her son for raising his voice to her, among other reasons.

Camacho said Palacios also admitted that sometimes the defendant would not listen to her.

The judge told assistant public defender Tillman Clark, counsel for Webb, that he is welcome to renew the request to modify bail by proposed another person to serve as third-party custodian.

Palacios begged the court to release her 25-year-old son so he could finish his GED and better his life.

"My son is not perfect so are we," Palacios said.

The mother said all these things about drugs, stealing, and gambling have to be stopped.

Assistant public defender Clark asked the court to modify the bail by allowing Webb to post $600 or 10 percent of the $6,000.

Clark proposed the mother as third-party custodian.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas, counsel for the government, objected to any modification of bail and to have Palacios as third-party custodian.

Barcinas said the government feels that Palacios is not capable of controlling her son.

Barcinas said Palacios testified about her TRO because the defendant raised his voice to her, that the defendant once left their house and she could not contact him for several days, and that she would feel drowsy when taking medication.

Police arrested Webb last December for allegedly checking in at Paradise Hotel using a forged check in the amount of $319.25.

Police said Webb admitted to receiving several blank checks from Summer Holiday Hotel and writing at least seven checks amounting to over $400 at different stores on Saipan.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged Webb with one count of theft and three counts of forgery.

The OAG subsequently amended the information to charge the defendant with only one count of theft.

According to the amended information, Webb stole approximately $1,352.68 in hotel services, food items, cigarettes, miscellaneous store items, and U.S. currency from Paradise Hotel, Twins Supermarket, and San Roque Market.

Webb was previously convicted for stealing the credit card of the KZNM/KCMI radio station and purchasing gas and other items in the amount of $94.21 at the Shell Highway Express in Gualo Rai. In April 2015, he was slapped with a two-month prison term. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CCA sets board meeting on Feb. 16

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's Board of Directors will be holding its regular Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016, 3pm at the CCA Conference Room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-BECQ-055

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 01, 2016 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF A SERVER FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN,** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Guangdong Development Company Ltd.

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Guangdong Development Company Limited is proposing to manufacture concrete hollow blocks in two existing warehouse structures. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in San Antonio along Aftetna Road on lot 550 NEW-8-R1. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: February 25, 2016, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, Wednesday, February 24, 2016 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Prime Pacific Properties, Inc. dba: Beacon Hill Condominium

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Prime Pacific Properties, Inc. dba: Beacon Hill Condominium is proposing to construct and operate an eleven storey condotel with 15 units of two to three storey villas. This use is classified as "Planned Development over 48ft" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot #069 D 05 along Isla Drive in Navy Hill. This lot is zoned as Rural.

Date: February 25th, 2016, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, Wednesday, February 24, 2016 or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , or US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg
(Tel: 234-9661 ● Fax: 234-9666 ● e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 1/28/16 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings

Conditional Use Application #2016-0136: Prime Pacific Properties, Inc. dba: Beacon Hill Condominium is proposing to construct and operate an 11 storey condotel with 15 units of two to three storey villas. This use is classified as "Planned Development over 48ft" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This proposal is located on lot #069 D 05 along Isla Drive in Navy Hill. This lot is zoned as Rural.

Conditional Use Application #2016-0468: Guangdong Development Company Limited is proposing to manufacture concrete hollow blocks in two existing warehouse structures. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located in San Antonio along Aftetna Road on lot 550 NEW-8-R1. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communications
D. Old Business
E. New Business
1. Office Operations Reports (Permits, Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM 2016 Spelling Bee

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016 AT 9:30 AM

at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Marian Miranda
6th Grade

Vivien Liu
6th Grade

Marjana Islam
5th Grade

Hannah Tenorio
4th Grade

Angelo Aguon
4th Grade

Kiku Tudela
5th Grade

Janis Taitano
5th Grade

Mary Grace Carcas
5th Grade

Psa Lie Medina
5th Grade

Andrielle Coloma
4th Grade

Elicia Cabrera
5th Grade

Neil Deleon Guerrero
4th Grade

Edgar Tuazon
4th Grade

Bea Bermeo
6th Grade

Samantha Sandbergen
6th Grade

Emiliana King
6th Grade

Queenie Tamayo
5th Grade

Alexander Guevarra
5th Grade

Michelle Bermudes
8th Grade

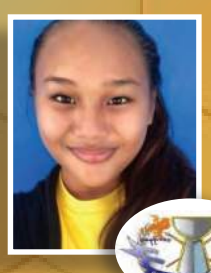
McRey Miranda
7th Grade

Nina Valdisimo
8th Grade

Kiesha Duenas
8th Grade

Holly Liban
7th Grade

Joseph Zhang
7th Grade



Ivany Mangloña
7th Grade

Jesse Seman
7th Grade

Ghessa Belneas
7th Grade

Maria Ayuyu
6th Grade

Thomas Benevente
8th Grade

Autumn Camacho
8th Grade

Vincent Manibusan
7th Grade

Joshua Masga
7th Grade

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

STUDENTS FIRST

NMPASI staff bid farewell to co-workers

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMPASI staff at farewell gathering for Holley and Taitano. Back row, Greg Borja, Jimmy "Big Tuna" Sablan, Jim Rayphand, Thomas Thornburgh, and Matt Holley. Front row, Jeanne Rayphand, Cleo Nening, Carmen Rebuenog, Janet Taitano, Fatima Sta. Maria, and Elsie Tilipao.

The staff and board of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. bid farewell to two of its long-time staff after a combined 16 years of service with the state-designated agency of protection and advocacy services for individuals with disabilities.

One of NMPASI's staff stated, "Being the tight-knit, small group that we are, Matt (Matthew Holley) and Jan's (Janet Taitano) absence certainly leaves a noticeable void in our office to which we are having to adjust, but 'onward and upward' as some have said."

Another would be quoted saying, "We all support their decisions to branch off and try their hands at whatever new adventures may come—no doubt they carry with them an inalienable sense of NMPASI's mission to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities and that they will forever remain advocates on behalf of people with disabilities wherever they may be."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Janet Taitano receives a plaque of appreciation from NMPASI staff recognizing her 10 plus years of service to NMPASI and on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matt Holley receives a plaque of appreciation from NMPASI staff recognizing his five and half years of service to NMPASI and on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

Matthew "Matt" Holley served as legal counsel with NMPASI for the past five and half years investing much of his time on prison/juvenile detention reform issues and successfully litigated (in U.S. District Court) NMPASI's "access authority." Per federal statute, NMPASI is mandated to, "protect and advocate for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities" [42 USC §15043 (a)(1)] and the federal regulations mandate that our office shall, among other things:

- Have reasonable unaccompanied access to public and private facilities which provide services, supports, and other assistance for individuals with developmental disabilities in the state when necessary to conduct a full investigation of an incident of abuse or neglect [42 CFR 1386.22(f)];
- Have unaccompanied access to all residents of a facility at reasonable times, which at a minimum shall include normal working hours and visiting hours (emphasis added) [42 CFR 1386.22(g)]

"Advocacy for disability-rights is something I intend to continue pursuing regardless of whether or not I work for NMPASI," Holley told his fellow advocates before leaving.

Janet L. Taitano was NMPASI's fiscal officer for a little over 10 years and generally kept behind the scenes of direct advocacy work, but holds a very personal attachment to the mission of NMPASI which was instrumental in protecting and advocating for the rights of an immediate relative ("Someone I love with all my heart," as she would say) who was involuntarily held at the psychiatric ward for a time due to a mental illness. Taitano and her family relocated to Guam in December when her husband was offered a new job and where they can be closer to the husband's family.

NMPASI was founded in 1993 with a mission to protect the civil, legal and human interests of individuals with disabilities. Since its inception, NMPASI has provided assistance to thousands of local residents with disabilities in the form of: (1) free legal services / representation to combat various forms of discrimination due to their disabilities, (2) free outreach/ training activities throughout the community (to include Tinian and Rota) on issues relating to the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities and (3) free advocacy services for the elderly who may not otherwise qualify under our disability-related programs.

For more, please contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel] / 235-7275 [fax/tty] or online at www.nmpasi.org. ***(PR)***

FOA Valentine's Day musical revue at PIC this weekend

Valentine's Day is coming up quickly and the Friends of the Arts is again presenting a special program to fit this special holiday. This year's event is a musical revue of some of the most popular love songs from today and yesterday sang by a group of talented singers that include the regional and national award-winning Marianas High School Glee Club. The program is directed by Paul Dujua, director of the Glee Club and vice president of the Friends of the Arts.

The program will be presented at the Pacific Island Club on Feb 12 and 14 at PIC's Charley's Cabaret. There will be three performances:

- Friday, Feb. 12, 7 pm (the buffet is optional; the buffet is not included in ticket price; theater will open at 6 pm for diners
- Sunday, Feb. 14, 3 pm (matinee)
- Sunday, Feb. 14, 7pm with Magellan Room Buffet included as part of the entrance fee)

Ticket prices for the Friday and Sunday-matinee shows are:

- Friends of the Arts member $8
- Non-member adult $10
- Student/child $6

The Magellan Room buffet on Friday is optional at $25 additional to the show price.

Tickets can be purchased through cast members or by e-mail Frank Gibson at: flgibson@yahoo.com

Tickets for the Sunday dinner show, with the cost of the buffet included, are:

- Member $33
- Non-member $35
- Student/child $31

Season ticket holders and advertisers only have to pay for the meal.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by e-mail to Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com or by telephone to 287-7476.

Seats for tickets purchased in advance can be selected and reserved by contacting Gibson.

FOA said $2 from the ticket price for each ticket will be donated to the MHS Glee Club to help with the cost of travel to Guam for the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

Enjoy the following songs:

Among the songs that the MHS Glee Club will perform are *Fame, Only Hope, Grow Old With You, Unchained Melody, Oh Pretty Woman, Summertime, Suddenly, Moon River, I Say A Little Prayer For You, Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better, I Have The Time Of My Life, The Way You Look Tonight, I Will Always Love You, As Time Goes By,* and *It Had To Be You.* ***(PR)***

Chamorro DNA research resources online

Vilar

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council wishes to advise the public that additional resources related to the recent presentation by visiting molecular anthropologist Dr. Miguel Vilar are now available on its website (www.northernmarianashumanities.org).

Last month, Dr. Vilar provided an overview of the findings of his DNA research that explores the genetic history and distinctiveness of the Chamorro people. A sizable crowd numbering over 120 attended this event.

For those wishing to view these additional resources, please go to the council's webpage and click on "Chamorro DNA Research" in the Featured Programs and Events box.

Here you can access the PowerPoint slides from Dr. Vilar's presentation, a copy of a journal article on this subject, and Dr. Vilar's recent interview on the Council's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program.

Dr. Vilar, who directs the National Geographic's "Genographic Project," is currently exploring the feasibility of undertaking a second phase of research in the CNMI to expand his sample size. ***(PR)***

Guam ban on smoking in bars to become law in 2017

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Smoking in bars will be prohibited in Guam next year under a measure that expands provisions to the island's anti-smoking law.

The Legislature voted last month in favor of expanding the Natasha Smoking Act pf 2005 to include bars in the list of establishments where indoor smoking is prohibited. The new provision takes effect Jan. 1, 2017, *The Pacific Daily News* reported.

The legislation lapsed into law without Gov. Eddie Calvo's signature. Oyaol Ngirairikl, a spokesman for the governor's office, said Calvo has supported efforts to reduce smoking rates on Guam, but he is concerned about the "invasion" of government in the private lives of citizens.

"He wonders whether the Legislature is over-regulating society and stripping too many choices and liberties from the people," said Ngirairikl.

The act also prohibits individuals from smoking inside a vehicle occupied by a pregnant woman. The law already banned smoking inside a vehicle with a child under the age of 17 inside.

Other provisions included in the bill are aimed at increasing training for those who enforce smoking prohibitions. It also authorizes Citizen Assisted Police Enforcement volunteers as well as private and government of Guam security officers to enforce the smoking regulations in and around buildings.

Some Guam bar owners say they support the new law and have already been implementing the ban.

Mike Looby, the owner of Horse and Cow in Tamuning, said his bar became a non-smoking establishment last year.

"I knew (the law) was coming so I decided to put the smoking patio and go smokeless," he said. "My business increased 10 percent. Nobody complained, even the smokers loved it. All the smokers that did smoke actually enjoy the place better."

Liske-Clark tops WPS spelling bee

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Whispering Palms Student Samantha Liske-Clark works with younger students as part of a mentoring reading program.

Whispering Palms School is proud to announce their 2016 school-wide spelling bee champion: 7th grader, Samantha Liske-Clark.

Sam, as her friends call her, will be traveling to Guam in early March for the Guam Regional Spelling Bee Competition. Once there, she will be competing against 1st-8th grade students from across the CNMI and Guam.

Last year she was awarded 4th place overall in the event, out of around 54 participants. This year she hopes to take first place and then travel to Washington, D.C. for the national competition.

In an interview, Sam said she "tries to practice at least 40 minutes every day." She can often be seen at school studying diligently in her free time at lunch and recess. "Guam was scary and a lot of pressure, but it was fun too," she commented. "Next year will be my last year to compete." When asked what the hardest word was that she ever had to spell, Sam responded, "The hardest word I can remember practicing for was 'weissnichtwo.'" Everyone at Whispering Palms School is very proud of Sam and wishes the best for her when she travels to Guam in hopes of becoming the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee Champion. ***(Ronald Wright)***

Contractor ruptures, repairs service lateral near Achugao

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the villages of San Roque and Tanapag experienced a temporary water service interruption yesterday when a contractor working along the road near Achugao accidentally ruptured a service lateral in the area.

The contractor immediately notified CUC about the line break and Water Operations personnel were dispatched to the area to close the nearest valve, which interrupted service to San Roque and Tanapag at 9am. The contractor then repaired the damaged line and service was restored to the area at 4pm.

For more information, please contact the 24-hour CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or visit www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation for the latest updates.

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

Robert Tenorio Torres
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P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **RYON OK CHANG,** **Defendant.**	**Small Claims No. 15-0235** **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: RYON OK CHANG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the **COMPLAINT.** You have **Twenty (20) days** after service of this **AMENDED SUMMONS** upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950,** or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger of by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this **AMENDED SUMMONS**, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 29th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Early Valentine at
Blossoms
Floral Shop
Don't wait for the weekend; deliver to your Cupid early with gifts from Blossoms Floral Shop and make her day extra special by stretching out Valentine's Day. Fill her heart with all the romance of assorted roses, wet her lips with chocolates, sparkle the room up with candles from Bath & Body, dine with wine, touch her soft body with endless love fragrances all arranged with beautiful flowers of your choice.
Stop by Blossoms Floral Shop and see our selections of Valentine gifts and flowers and let us help you make your Cupid have endless memories.
Make your Cupid Smile and give her the Valentine of her HEART.
Be Mine
Cutie pie
TRUE LOVE
Love you
XOXO
Hug Me
Happy Valentine's Day!
Rock my Baby
Be My Valentine
CUPID IS iN LOVE
Crazy for you
WILD
Open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 – 6:00 pm
...Unlimited expressions for lasting impressions.
Blossoms Floral Depot & Novelties
J.E.T. Building, Gualo Rai, P.O. Box 500070 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-235-2276/235-7372 • Fax: 670-235-7371

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Should women be required to register for the draft?

Not everyone embraces the idea of women serving in military combat roles, particularly some Republican lawmakers as well as commanders of the nation's most elite special operations units. The skeptics continue to question whether women are up to the task. They seem determined to squelch recognition of women's battlefield participation any way they can.

Republican Reps. Duncan Hunter of California and Ryan Zinke of Montana introduced a bill last week to require all American women between ages 18 and 26 to register for the Selective Service — the draft — exactly as their male counterparts already are required to do. Yes, the draft still exists, even though we've had an all-volunteer force since the 1970s.

This bill clearly was a cynical move designed for shock value. Hunter and Zinke are both veterans. Both appear to believe the Obama administration has gone too far with its advocacy for women who want to pursue combat eligibility. They echo the concerns of various military commanders who contend that women's presence in front-line combat jobs would destroy unit cohesion and erode performance.

President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Ash Carter overruled these objections, with Obama noting in December that 90 percent of military positions have opened to women during recent decades, and that they already serve — and some have died — while performing combat duties.

More than 280,000 women were deployed in the Iraq and Afghanistan combat zones, and at least 150 were killed. But because they haven't been officially eligible for combat, they haven't always received recognition in the same ways their male counterparts have.

In 2012, four service women, including an Air National Guard helicopter pilot shot down in Afghanistan, had to sue to get their combat service recognized. The pilot, a major, had been deemed ineligible for promotion at the time because the Pentagon couldn't officially recognize her combat service.

That's the background driving the effort to make their combat service official and establish a training regimen that adequately prepares them for battlefield challenges.

The difficult question is the one raised by Hunter and Zinke: If women want equality, are they prepared to accept the awesome responsibility that accompanies it?

The short answer is that not all women want to serve in the military, and not all women currently in uniform necessarily want to be on the front lines. Not all men want to serve, and many probably shudder when it comes time to register for the draft.

If Hunter and Zinke seriously want to pursue this bill, let them. It's a good debate for the nation to have. Equality under the law doesn't just mean equal pay and equal opportunities for promotion. It also means bearing equal responsibility, regardless of gender, when the call comes to serve our nation.

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Pinilakang Tabing

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune*.*

The title ages us a bit. Pinilakang Tabing means "silver screen" when movie screens were painted silver. That was when I turned 20 and left Pea Eye. I vaguely remember Nida Blanca and Nestor de Villa in their romantic-comic musicals, and "Ilokana" Manang Biday, Gloria Romero who could not speak the tongue, played the role with Ric Rodrigo. The operative reality on the "remembering" is "vaguely."

Tomorrow, TFC ABS-CBN brings to Saipan's Pinas (my generic word for Pinoy and Pinay) the venerable Ate Vi (Vilma Santos, the Star for All Seasons, who can sing, dance, and cry on cue) in a movie, *Everything About Her*, which appears to be a Meryl Streep playing a CEO in NYC without the melodramatic illness. With Philippine movies' penchant to ape its progeny of Hollywood glitter and happy endings, plus Bollywood practice of pouring out tears in between, coercively rubbing it in to the audience, that is hardly surprising.

Given the long list of movies and TV programs our actress made, while media compared her against the rough but pleasantly diminutive *morena* Nora Aunor of Bicol, I'll enjoy the memory and the remembering, though I confess, I never had the chance to see any of their movies. Vi is less than a decade younger than I so she was just a teener when I forsook Pinilakang Tabing.

Anyway, the erstwhile mayor of Lipa City, and current governor of Batangas, wife to Senator Ralph Recto, a previous though brief spouse to Edu Manzano when she birthed a child, shows her longevity is strictly out of innocent but abundant personal charm.

Ms. Santos' performances and her tenacious presence in the silver screen is legendary, her awards more than a roomful. But our interest is on Philippine film making itself.

My brother when he was still in Pea Eye, hung out with an Uncle that considered Miss Universe Gloria Diaz extended family; got close to the movie star. I did elbow earlier with Kennedyesque Senator Manong Ferdie and the glamorous Waray Meldie before we parted ways after 1081.

Saipan's movie theatre that closed when it was temporarily Soudelor-drenched hosts the mega flick and since most of my readers are migrants or CWs from the Philippines, it is only fair that such a momentous intrusion gets promoted in a small island like Saipan.

The movie itself looks like a typical TFC offering, with plenty of gab, some accented to the highest decibel, lots of crying in the midst of the dialogue, the dialectic reaching symphonic crescendo so the ending would play out quietly into the sunset.

In the movie, I gather from perusing the Internet, Vivian is a successful female executive portrayed by Vilma who suffers from stage 3 cancer, and a recalcitrant son Albert who felt neglected and needed to be herded back to the fold played by Xian Lim (put an accent between the vowels on the first name and he'd be a Huangdi in Shaanxi), with a confident nurse Jaica, played by Angel Locsin, hired to care for Mama in her waning years, and ending as a bridge between mother and son. The plot of Shakespearean proportion complements the star-studded cast. That's probably why I am anxious to revisit the wide screen and see how portrayals moved from before to now.

As to ABS-CBN moving into the Saipan market, promoter James Chua got *ST*'s attention. I do not watch TV at all but my neighbors blare THC programs in the cathedral-like echoes of our apartment complex.

In my youth, the elite families included Quirino in Ilocos Sur that numbered the late President Elpidio. Brother Antonio pioneered TV, the latter confident enough to oppose the politically powerful landed family of Yulo, who, along with Lopez in Iloilo were established power bases of post WWII Pilipinas. Quirino started ABS and Lopez CBN, merged to form the current broadcast corporation that produced Ate Vi's offering.

Ate Vi and ABS-CBN drags along with them the elite families of King Philipp II's former domain, and whatever passes for "Pilipino" that means Europe's colonial parceling of the world, it has their fingerprints on the till. The family names are familiar. Quirino of Vigan, definitely of Chinese origin. The Huangdom (Kingdom) of Pangasinan (Huang Hai also translates as the East Sea) traded with Japan and China before Spain. The Spaniards called Li-Han (Lingayen) as the Port of Japan because folks wore Chinese and Japanese attire. That's before Juan Salcedo subdued Lim Hong (aka, Limahong), the wukuo (pirate) terror of Fujian and Guangdong, in the Battle of Manila, and who tried unsuccessfully to establish a Huangdom in Li-Han.

Well, we've gone a long way off the immediacy of Ate Vi and her movie *Everything About Her* but the TFC promo occasions those who go by Señor Felipe de España's name to test the rich and diverse history of where they came from, if only to view themselves as heir to the Sultanate of Brunei, the European colonial era, and the world turmoil of the 20th Century to the present U.S. ascent and decline.

OK. Let's go see the movie.

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Finapos Yan Karera

Ha totpe hit destrosiu, pininite yan chatseguru na karera. Tali`e minachom yan kinahulu` atdau. Gai sustansia i mefe`na, ti klaru i tattate. Sige pa`gu ta dibina futtuna-ta.

Bes enkuando, sige tautau-ta man-afaisen haf` mohon mamamaila`. Mattu este na kuestion pot mampos silensiu i hegsu` I Deni` deste hinalom i nuebu na manehante. Kase ha nesessita tiempu para u aregla halom apusientuña.

Iya hululu` na chinatsaga i kara` gobietno-ta. Megaiña na dibi ke haf` humahalom na tiempu. Palu aminasu ginen destrosiun pagyu. Lamayot patte i man-apalo`pu` hagas diskuidu siha pot trenta años na tiempu. Ni dibin kandet gi CUC ti siña ma-apase. I depattamenton hinemlu` yan eskuela masede umayau salape` para nesessidat niha. Klaru este na modun arelgu na kara` iya Marianas gi katkuet birada.

I kareran para papa` gi un` taduñg kañadan dibi kanaha` seguru na i monedan familia parehu `sino mas menos. Esta para mas ke bente años deste ke parehu na sueddu magagana ni empleau siha. Mensahen kara` i gobietnu siempre mas ha amina manada familia.

Diberas, esta hu u`upus i lañget na lacheyu` mohon ni haf` lini`e-hu pot kara` gobietno-ta. Lau magahet haf` sineda`hu ya ti u mahñau na dañkulu na chanda gi kualidat linala` tautau siha. Anog klaru na trabiha chagu` guinifi-ta gi bandan satton na kinimite para ta gobietnan maisa hit. Puru finu` chispas, tai sustansia.

I konstitusion iya Marianas ha manda balansia na moneda kada sakan. Haf` taimanu na gai dibi i gobietnu pa`gu mas ke $510 miyon pesus? Kau ni offisiat publiku ti siña makomple lai konstitusion pot este na asuntu? Kumeke ilegña na i manma-elihe ti kumomple obligasion niha guine na patte. Haf` mohon?

Gi papa` kontratan Covenant mana`e ramienta siha iya Marianas para u fachuchu`e umestablese homlu` na ekonomia yan sisteman gobietnu. Ta komple este gi mediu ochenta siha na sakan. Lau dispues maliñgon halom. Ma`pos i Japones, machum i fakterian magagu, dispues sige ha` papa` i ekonomian i tanu`.

Guaha siha asuntu man-mapetsige lau inipos tinahoñg na kontribusion aduana para u sustene nesessidat-ta. Estague` na hita yan hita man-a`afana` gi halom homhum sige ta dibina haf` mamamaila`. Sin sufisiente na fondu para manu` hit? Dispues guaha planun gobietnu malag iya Washington pot asunto-ta siha. I asuntu ni ha ayeg dudayu` kau tafan maekuñgog maseha ilegta na lehitimu i asuntu.

Presentasion: Yangin pot tres islas ni chinile` ni federat sin konsentimienton iya Marianas pues konfotmeyu` gi hilu` prinsipiu na lache ayu na disision federat.

Lau kau este i mas dañkulu na problema-ta pa`gu? Na ti kara` kahan iya Marianas i humohogse todu kinalamten operasion gobietnu guine na biahe? Na ti mana`e Marianas trastes siha para u aregla ekonomiaña? Huñgan ta gacha` ayu na eskalera lau dispues maliñgun halom kulan sirenu `nai manina i atdau. Haf` satton yan fitme ta petsige para ta limienda este na chinatsaga?

Ileg miyu na i casino i propiu na satbasion fondu. Dispues otru na sunidu in` kakanta pa`gu sa` tinahoñg aduana para nesessidat iya Marianas. Na ti in` kakanu` kontiempu fondu siha ni debi u hanau halom gi kaha para nesessidat-ta? Kulan maliñgun ñaihon sensian menhalom na biahe, haf` mohon? Estague` masusesede gi todu che`chu` hasupag.

Iya Washington ha tuñgo`ña haf` masusesede guine gi manma-elihe. Haye muna` kara` i kahan iya Marianas, programan manritirau, CUC, CHC, PSS yan otru siha depattamentu? Haf` na tima faisen mas aduana (tax) i Best Sunshine? Haf` na un` lisensia ha` mana` guaha? Na ti salape` problema-ta pa`gu? Manu `nai manlache hit gi este na kuentas? Na ti dos yan dos kuattru, kuattru yan kuattru, ochu? Haf` achamegai kuattru pat ochu? Dios mihu!

Yangin para ta chansa umatrebi na kara` i gobietnun iya Marianas pues u fattu siha didog na kuestion `nai umasensura haf` kinemprendemu pot konseptun "self-government"— para ta gobietnan maisa hit. Bula kuestion `nai mapesa haf` bidamu para un` aregla galaide` iya Marianas sa` mañogñug gi sagua` ni manadan dibiña. Haf` mohon? Maulegña kase ta bira hit halom ya ta husgan maisa unestamente manu `nai manlotgun hit!

■■■

Sige i amku` kattan Chalan Piao gi pa`gu inipos lemlem tautau. Hana` fañila kandet karetaña ya ha kontinua hinanauña. Dos minutos dispues matai i kareta. Ha sañgane lahiña para u punu` i kandet sa` u hokog gaselina. Diberas na chaleg!

■■■

Hu bisita un` tiuhu gi alacha pot apmam tihuli`e. Animu manlimienda matiteg talaya. Esta pa`gu humuhuyuñg tumalaye pot eksisiu yan tane`. Hana` ma`ase`yu` `nai ilegña, "Taigue esta si tiahamu ni muna`gagasgas kinine`hu antes". Kulan mohon ma-utut kanaiña.

Ti pumara tumalaya. `An buyada kinine`ña ha patte famaguona `sino i bisinu. Tres mesis antes de fiestan i señgsoñg ha tutuhon manrikohe para kelaguen i linahyan. Yahu na offisiu tumalaya lau `nai rusketi kondision-ta guseña ha kone-yu` i kansensitu piot ya mapanag ñaihon-yu` ya mofona machalapon ke talaya. Dios mihu!

Enfin, hana` katmayu` i pas na mañaña i tiuhu gi humidde na offiisioña kumu mauleg na talayeru. Man-mauleg yan sustansiau siha na akonsehu ginen su`anu na hinassoña. Todu i tiempu guaha para kelaguen-hu `an mattu-yu` manbisita. Kustumbren tanu`!

■■■

Ha gapet adeñgña i amiguhu dispues kahulu gi troñkun niyog para u risaka i tiba. Dispues hanayane-yu` dididi` tuban lahe. `Nai esta ha katkula na mappla` ñaihon-yu` mamaisen para fahan chipaña. Mauleg na amigu!

■■■

Antes `an guaha chinatsagag-hu hu bisita si biahu pot para bai` konbetsasiune. Palabran antau na amku` gi hilu` motmut na pinasensia sumen nama`aggem. I finun kanaiña gi ha`ihu numa`e-yu` hinimidde yan katma na siñiente. Hana` pasifiku siñienteg-hu dispues `nai humanau-yu` tatte para iya hame. Mañge` pasensia yan su`anu na palabran amku`.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

How to fight Zika and other diseases

The Zika virus headlines may seem disturbingly familiar — with good reason. Although Zika and Ebola are very different contagions that cause distinctive diseases, there are startling similarities in how the two epidemics unfolded.

Both were detected late. By the time health authorities understood that we were in the midst of an Ebola outbreak, the virus had been spreading for months and across multiple international borders. We are only now starting to piece together the magnitude of the Zika crisis, but the more than 20-fold surge in reports of microcephaly — a neurologic birth defect believed to be caused by Zika infection in pregnant women — last year in Brazil suggests that extensive viral spread in late 2014 and early 2015 went unnoticed.

Both disease outbreaks generated sluggish international responses. The World Health Organization was lambasted for its long delay before labeling the Ebola outbreak an international emergency. With Zika cases now reported in 23 countries and territories in the Americas and up to 1.3 million infections in Brazil alone, WHO finally declared the outbreak an international public health emergency on Feb. 1. It remains to be seen whether WHO will effectively escalate international control and research efforts, while preventing countries from imposing unwarranted travel and trade restrictions.

And in both outbreaks, the heaviest burden fell on vulnerable populations least able to bear it. Ebola swept across three post-conflict countries that are among the world's poorest and lowest-ranked in terms of human development. Brazil's outbreak of microcephaly was centered in the north — one of its poorest areas.

These patterns — slow detection, sluggish response and endangered vulnerable populations — will repeat themselves until we fix the forces driving them.

A post-Ebola report released by the National Academy of Medicine last month estimated that pandemics cost the global economy on average over $60 billion each year, and it prescribed an annual global investment of $4.5 billion, mostly to bolster public health systems. It recommended that WHO disseminate a daily "watch list" of outbreaks and streamline its emergency preparedness and response activities into one reliably funded and separately governed center. Finally, the report suggested funding a pandemic research group that would be supported by but independent of WHO, and that would build surge capacity for drugs needed in health emergencies.

To build an effective global system for containing infectious diseases like Zika and Ebola, we need to make sure that countries around the world have the surveillance capacity to identify outbreaks before they spiral out of control. That means giving technical and financial assistance to developing countries and having external monitoring and incentives to make sure that capacity is built. We also need to make sure that WHO — the only organization with the representation and legitimacy to do so — is up to the task of leading outbreak response when local forces are overwhelmed.

Not only do we know how to create a functioning global system, doing so is actually required under international law.

The 2005 International Health Regulations, introduced by WHO and binding on virtually every country in the world, set standards for how to track, report and respond to outbreaks. Countries were supposed to build the capacity needed to meet these standards by 2012, with possible extensions to 2014 and 2016. Time is quickly running out, yet only a third of countries worldwide said they had complied as of late 2014. The real compliance rate is almost certainly lower.

Now that Zika is at the forefront of international attention, let's remember the broader systemic shortcomings that got us here in the first place.

Without serious investment in global health systems, we will continue to face pandemics like Ebola and Zika and their devastating consequences.

By YANBAI ANDREA WANG and MICHELE BARRY
Los Angeles Times

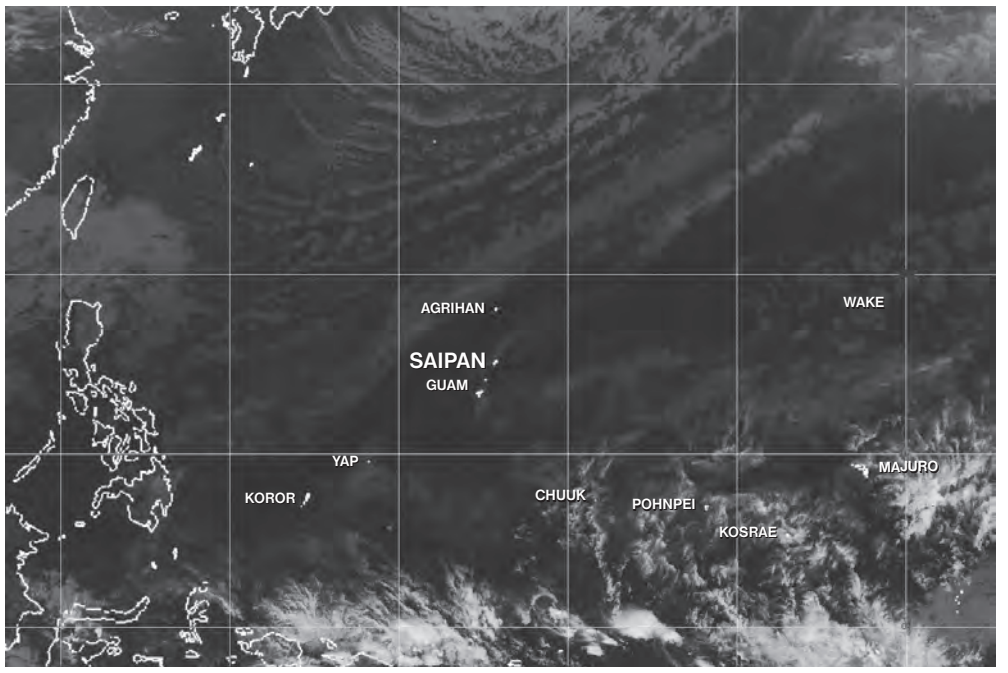
Yanbai Andrea Wang is a fellow at the Center for Law and the Biosciences at Stanford Law School. Michele Barry is director of the Center for Innovation in Global Health at Stanford School of Medicine.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86º ▼75º	▲85º ▼75º	▲85º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Minami Tori Shima at 25N156E to 20N147E then continues as a shear line to beyond 10N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N137E to 6N145E including Yap. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers in a band from well north of Pohnpei to well southeast of Wake Island within 125 miles either side of a line from 12N156E to 12N167E to 15N172E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms along the equator from 135E to 155E and south of Majuro south of a line from 1N171E to 6N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲82	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼65
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼33
Hong Kong	Showers	▲70	▼65
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼32
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲87	▼56
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼60
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼55
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲31	▼19
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼48
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼35
Pusan	Rain	▲62	▼50
Rome	Showers	▲56	▼45
Salem	Showers	▲61	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Seoul	Rain	▲50	▼40
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼48
Washington, DC	Windy	▲30	▼19

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
10:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:34 AM	8:56 PM
Friday	9:22 AM	9:54 PM
Saturday	10:10 AM	10:53 PM
Sunday	10:59 AM	11:52 PM
Monday	11:50 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Saving lives amid world's worst humanitarian crisis

By ALISON THOMPSON
Miami Herald

SKALA SIKAMINEAS, Greece—Standing in the harbor of this Greek village on the island of Lesbos, I am holding yet another soaking wet little girl with blue lips. Minutes before she had been sinking in the deadly Aegean sea crossing from Turkey to Greece. Her parents had fled Syria with only a cellphone and cash after their house had been bombed and The Islamic State had shot three generations of their relatives in cold blood.

My heart swells as I spot tiny specks of orange lifejackets bobbing like oranges in a low-riding boat. The rescue whistles blow, and volunteers from all nations jump into action. The refugees are closer now, and 50 feet from shore the screams of terror begin as two panicked refugees jump out, setting off a crushing stampede as children and babies are catapulted from the boat into the dark sea.

Most Syrians don't swim. I catch sight of a small body in a puffy pink jacket floating away and I plunge into the water to reach her in borrowed time. I struggle to plant my feet on the slippery rocks below as the weight of her lifejacket and wet clothes strain my lazy muscles to work even harder.

By the shore, volunteers call for stretchers in five different languages, but I am focused on one child's heartbeat. Finding no pulse, I fumble at her clothes, free the airway and pump her tiny chest looking for life. After two cycles of CPR, water sputters from her mouth and I turn her over to allow the sea to escape. She is not in good condition, but she is alive. Children and babies are quickly being passed, volunteer to volunteer, to the safety of shore, and we smile and hug the families who were almost swallowed by the sea.

Back on the shore, I reach for a bottle of bubbles to help calm another restless baby and eye the two teenage girls who have been raped by The Islamic State. They remain silent, and their dark lashes spy my every move. With new eyes, I scope the refugee journey of heading toward the "promised land," but finding only paper towns. In Lesbos, I have seen the face of all our gods, where humans embrace and pain is absorbed into a love without borders.

Volunteers work day and night in rain and snow, huddled together around fires and in rental cars, tracking the boats and sending rescue teams out into the angry sea. We rush another hypothermic pregnant woman along the darkened shoreline now lit with magic bright solar lights and wait and pray, always ready with emergency blankets and food and dry clothes.

The volunteers share jubilation in the safe rescues — and bottomless despair when we learn they have capsized and everyone has drowned.

After five months of volunteering in Lesbos, my brain can't solve the larger problems of a world where leaders are also struggling to find answers. I do know that I can help these suffering humans, but I am not naive enough to think that a terrorist couldn't get through any border or inspire people across many nations.

Syria's civil war is the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. Half the country's pre-war population — more than 11 million people — have been killed or forced to flee their homes. Last year, more than 800,000 Syrians arrived by sea and in them I have met beautiful, educated families who are just like us.

When did we become so fearful? The Sept. 11 attacks taught me not to live in fear or give in to terrorism. If the world turns its back on the refugees, they will be forced to return to Syria and then The Islamic State wins.

Where has all the love gone in the world? We are not being asked to go shave our heads and become monks, but to imagine a world where everyone does their part, so that the karma banks will overflow with blue-chip stocks of compassion and we all become "billionaires on the inside."

Imagine a world where souls are more valuable than money. Isn't that the way it was meant to be?

It's easy to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, but now humanity asks us to transform fear into love. To be in the wrong place at the right time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who lives under a rock?

So far so lucky. It was a virtual tie in the Iowa primary caucus but Hillary Clinton prevailed over Bernie Sanders. How? By, allegedly, coin flips as directed by the DNC. Six tosses gave her four more Iowa delegates thus giving her a 699.57 to 695.49 win. Is that bad or what? Four our very own Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan it's idiotic judgment that will doom every single islander if she becomes president. Why? For blindly demonstrating his "loyalty" to the Democratic Party to which he caucuses with by endorsing the career criminal Hilary Clinton for president in the upcoming 2016 election. Because? In the over 1,580 confidential emails exposed on her private server by the FBI—dozens classified too sensitive for public release, among the many, many other anti-America acts—we now know about it or be able to honor them for their service to our country. For readers of this opinion piece, they're the unknown and the unherald special men and women who fight to keep you, your family and our nation.

After six long months of investigation—hundreds of interviews, tens of thousands of documents, and untold hours of retrieving deleted emails from Hillary's illegal server—FBI director James Comey and his team of more than 100 agents are finally closing in on Hillary and her closest advisers. These three—Huma Abedin, Cheryl Mills, and Jake Sullivan—have been notified by the FBI that they should prepare to testify under oath about their involvement in the handling of classified national security secrets on Hillary's homebrew email system. To what? Giving away the nation's secrets, evidence of wrongdoing, espionage, undermining national security.

Enter that failed president Barack Obama and his mouth-piece, newly appointed U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch. With Loretta in his pocket (as was Eric Holder before her), he's already providing cover for the liar by stating on the national TV coverage that Hillary's private email server is "no threat to the nation" and "she performed such a wonderful job" as "secretary of state." Nuts. It is clear that she broke the law, and there's enough evidence to prosecute and convict. Hillary belongs in prison. What's her email defense? In her debate with Sanders desperately seeking Hillary stated that previous officials SD Powell and Rice "did it, too, and I'm 100 percent confident nothing will come of it." But wait. Many of those sensitive emails on her unsecured server/website were between Hillary and Barack himself. Is he hiding something too? The criminal-in-chief or just plain negligent? I'll bet. For our America things can't get any worse.

So here's the end game. Barack desires so much to have an Obama 3 as the next president of the USA. With a checkered past himself, Obama is desperate to further his failed policies and keep all his political (left wing and Muslim) hacks in place to continue the destruction of America. Should, then, I mention the Benghazi slaughter of four Americans and Hillary's now exposed lies of that massacre? Or the millions of dollars donated to the Clinton Foundation by international companies and governments, and the millions of dollars paid to Bill Clinton for speaking engagements (in those foreign countries) while Hillary ran (raped) the State of Department? Or the physical threats and mysterious disappearances of dozens of adulterers Bill's gal pals (bimbo attacks)? Or the faked death and coverup of Hillary's "alleged" one-time ex-law partner and lover Vince Foster? I give up. This list of documented dope dealings, fraud, murders, rapes and other crimes committed by the Hillary and Bill Clinton duo is to endless to mention.

For all you doubters, "YouTube" those questions, find out for yourself. If you don't know this by now go get your head examined. You make up your own mind or go find a rock. (Follow the link Newsmax.comhttp://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Hillary-Clinton-FBI-email-scandal/2016/02/02/id/712399/#ixzz3z2zKSc3b).

Lee Andersen
Via email

Cowardice with a capital 'C'

All elected officials of the CNMI government are to be reminded, once again, that it is unlawful and unconstitutional for the president of the Senate and speaker of the House to hold acting capacity as acting governor and acting lieutenant governor, respectively, when the governor and lieutenant governor are absent from the CNMI. If any doubt persists, these elected officials are to consult their respective legal counsels on this matter. Otherwise, the Office of the AG and AG should make clear this prohibition pursuant to the CNMI Constitution and applicable CNMI statute. If this is ignored once again, it will present itself as a matter that makes our constitution and statutes useless and only subject to the wimp of politicians and lawless lawmakers. That's right, cowardice with a capital "C."

The lawful way to cover for the absences of both the governor and lieutenant governor is acting appointment of cabinet members. Before leaving the region for a trip to Washington, D.C., the governor should appoint the Secretary of Finance as the acting lieutenant governor. When the lieutenant governor is absent for a trip to a conference, the Secretary of Finance who is the acting lieutenant governor now becomes acting governor who will appoint for the acting lieutenant governor. The acting governor could select the person of the office of the Secretary of Labor. When the governor makes the lawful acting appointment of the Secretary of Finance, there all angles of lawful and constitutional considerations are met and official. On the other hand, the CNMI history would account the first female governor and lieutenant governor. The only question for the Office of AG and AG to answer is whether a person in acting capacity of lieutenant governor could assume an acting appoint as governor. The expected absences of the governor and lieutenant governor in a few days do present a crucial situation to the present anomaly we dealt with the succession of persons who were sworn in as governor and lieutenant governor in recent weeks.

If we are not able to change our attitude, then it is useless trying out to solve solvable issues in our governmental practices and lawful acts. If it has to come from a source, I will continue to be that source and others that see the situation we are confronting turning cancerous day by day. As Arnold Bennett once said, "any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomfort." This is the time, and we have to deal with it no matter how we dislike what the truth is.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

It's really about our children

Hello, my name is Greg and I am an alcoholic. I have said this statement in many meetings that I attend to address a problem I face daily. I am thankful I have not hit rock bottom as many of "Bill's friends" are prone to do, but there are still incidents that I regret. I am not a violent drunk, and I do not bring domestic violence into our home. The problem I do face is the fact that I become absolutely useless after certain days of over imbibing. As a result, my children are affected by a certain degree of neglect. I am unable to help them with their schoolwork, cook food or play games with them. They are not alone.

This week (Feb. 14-20, 2016) is National Children of Alcoholics Awareness Week. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides the following facts about Children of Alcoholics and the risks they face:

■ More than 6 million children live with at least one parent who abuses or is dependent on alcohol or an illicit drug.

■ Alcoholism tends to run in families. Children of alcoholics (COAs) are four times more likely than non-COAs to develop alcoholism or drug problems.

■ COAs are at higher risk than others for depression, anxiety disorders, problems with cognitive and verbal skills, and parental abuse or neglect. They are significantly more likely than other children to be abused or neglected by their parents or guardians and are more likely to enter foster care.

■ Research shows that a combination of factors account for the increased alcohol abuse risks for COAs, including the following: possible inherited genetic vulnerability to addiction; poor family communication; poor role modeling; and the stresses of living in a family lacking stability, predictability, and clearly defined, appropriate, and consistent roles for all family members.

■ The most important message for COAs is that they are not responsible for the problems of adults in their homes and that their own lives can be different and better than the lives of their alcohol-abusing parents/ guardians. They also need to know help is available for them and how to get it.

I am thankful that I have a loving and caring spouse who helps support me when I am in need and to take up the slack in providing for our children. As I move forward "One day at a time," I ask parents who also have problems with alcohol to spend time with their children and seek treatment in your time of need. If you are a child of an alcoholic, talk to your parents about their problem and how it affects you-my own children have no problem telling me what they think.

Additionally, with the integration of services relating to substance abuse prevention/treatment and mental health in the federal government creating Behavioral Health services, there are protections afforded to individuals actively seeking treatment for their addictions through federal laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

For information on how you or a loved one can reduce drinking, please contact the Community Guidance Center-Addiction Services at 323-6560, and for more on protections under laws like the ADA contact the PAIMI program through NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at nmpasi.org

Greg Borja
NMPASI projects specialist

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

WESPAC schedules public meetings on fisheries management

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council announces the following public meetings on fisheries management in offshore waters of Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the Pacific Remote Island Areas. For more information and complete agendas, go to www.wpcouncil.org or contact the Council at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov or in Hawai'i, ph. (808) 522-8220, fax (808) 522-8226; on Guam, ph. (671) 687-6812; in CNMI, ph. (670) 322-9834 or (670) 287-9482; and in American Samoa, ph. (684) 258-9588.

122nd Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)

March 8-10 (T-Th) 8:30am-5pm

Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Major agenda items: Coral reef program projects; Center for Independent Experts review of data poor stock assessment model and Kona crab assessment; Management strategy evaluation priorities; Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) bigeye tuna quota; EPO swordfish overfishing; SSC Operational Guidelines and Three-Year Research Plan.

Hawai'i Advisory Panel

March 10 (Th) 9am-11am

Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu and teleconference

Major agenda items: Island and pelagic fishery Issues, Fishery Ecosystem Plan modifications, Overfishing of EPO swordfish.

American Samoa Advisory Panel

March 10 (Th) 4pm-6pm

Department of Commerce Market Conference Room, Fagatogo Village, American Samoa

Major agenda items: Island and pelagic fishery Issues, Fishery Ecosystem Plan modifications, Overfishing of EPO swordfish.

Standing Committees

March 14 (M) 9am-5pm

Council office, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Major agenda items: Pelagic and international fisheries (9 a.m.-noon); Program Planning and Research (1 p.m.-3 p.m.); Executive & Budget (3 p.m.-5 p.m.).

165th Council Meeting

March 15-17 (T-Th) 8:30am- 5pm

Laniakea YWCA - Fuller Hall, 1040 Richards St., Honolulu, Hawai'i

Major agenda items: Overfishing of EPO swordfish; Fishery Ecosystem Plan modifications; Regional Operating Agreement; Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures; SSC Operational Guidelines and Three-Year Research Plan.

Fishers Forum

March 15 (T) 6pm-9 pm

Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu, Hawai'i

Major agenda items: Future of the Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Fishery.

Written comments on agenda items for the 165th Council meeting received by March 4, 2016, will be copied and distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. Direct comments to Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, WPRFMC, and mail them to 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; fax to 808 522-8226; or email to info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov. After March 4, the submitter must provide the Council staff with at least 40 copies of the written comments. Opportunities for public testimony are available throughout the meeting as indicated on the agenda. These public meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Simonds at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date. ***(PR)***

Boost for education planning and decision making in Tuvalu

FUNAFUTI, Tuvalu— Twenty-one master trainers, mostly ICT teachers and school clerks, will lead the roll-out of education data system training to all schools in Tuvalu this year, on behalf of the Education Ministry.

The training is part of an improvement plan for the Tuvalu Education Management Information System (TEMIS), supported by the Pacific Community (SPC), and is expected to significantly improve the collection and use of data for education planning, monitoring and decision making in Tuvalu.

The master trainers recently graduated from a workshop hosted by Tuvalu's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in Funafuti, with technical support from UNICEF and SPC, through its Statistics for Development Division and Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP).

The workshop was part of the Achieving Education for All in Tuvalu Programme, funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the goal of increasing the statistical literacy, reasoning and thinking of decision makers at the Ministry and in schools.

Tuvalu's Permanent Secretary, Education, Youth and Sports, Puaita Etuati, said it was important for those in the education sector to build their analytical and planning skills to improve and monitor the quality of education delivered to children in Tuvalu.

"I urge everyone involved to move forward to analyse and interpret the education statistics and indicators that are reported from TEMIS and other sources to help us deliver our roles better, both at the ministry and school levels," Mrs Etuati said.

Evidence-based planning is required to deliver against national policy priorities articulated in the Tuvalu Education Strategic Plan (TESP III), as well as school-level priorities included in their annual school improvement plans.

With reporting also required for key international and regional educational commitments, such as goal four of the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) and the Pacific Education Development Framework (PEDF), the use of TEMIS – and similar SPC-supported systems in use across the Pacific region – can improve school-based record keeping and stock management, and subsequently raise the quality of data reporting.

"We congratulate Tuvalu's Education Ministry for acting on the need to use data to drive change and results, and for equipping stakeholders with important knowledge and tools to analyse the performance of education in Tuvalu," SPC's Team Leader, Regional Technical Support Facility, Scott Pontifex, said.

"We're pleased to contribute to building the capacity of education officials, in Tuvalu and around the Pacific region, on the concepts and calculation of their indicators, to enhance evidence-based decision making and their understanding of the relevance of data in educational policy and planning," Mr Pontifex said.

The recent workshop also covered the importance of managing data across cross-cutting themes, such as disability, gender, education in emergencies, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools.

The Tuvalu National Statistics Office was invited to engage with the participants on gender and education, while UNICEF supported with other cross-cutting themes. ***(SPC)***

4 Saipan beaches red-flagged

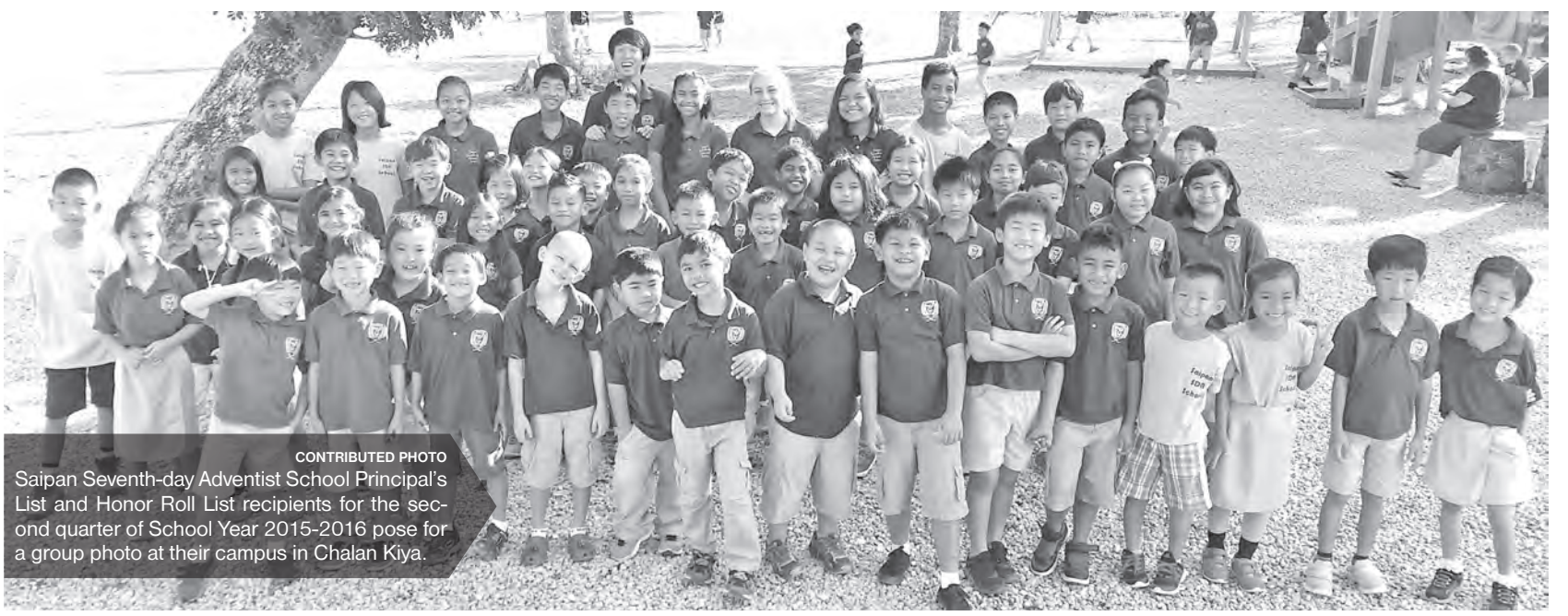
The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged four Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, CK Dist#2 Drain, and CK Dist #4 Lally Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

SDA 2Q honor roll



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School Principal's List and Honor Roll List recipients for the second quarter of School Year 2015-2016 pose for a group photo at their campus in Chalan Kiya.

Principal's List (93 pct and above)

First Grade
Gwanhun Son
Pete Phair
Juan Rolando Banacia
David Khadka
Montrey Germance

Second Grade
Kyle Diesta
Jenna Chen Xi Qiu
Mika Camacho
Peter John White
Vaniqa Marie Torres
Wendy Kim
Jacqlene Torres
Dennis Ahn

Third Grade
Gwanpil Son
Kimberly Buan
Elizabeth Tom
Danny Jeoung
Javon Gersonde
Sooa Choi

Fourth Grade
Ashley Sablan

Sixth Grade
Rannon Palacios

Seventh Grade
Johfanermay Dela Cruz
Roy Yoon

Eighth Grade
Emma Timmons
Russell Yoon

Honor Roll List (87-92 pct)

First Grade
Michelle Huang
D'artagnan Enerio
Sharon Zhang
Wayne Dominic Año
Kiwon Lee
Tristan Sablan
Will Libante
Nakhee Choi
Kelly Selkor

Second Grade
Jia Zhi Li
Min Li
Megan Rana
Mikiya Takizawa

Third Grade
Melvin Han
Tao Jin
Prakhusan Rana
Kireiko Kukkun

Fourth Grade
Victoria Duhon

Fifth Grade
Charles James Awitan
Ryan Yoon
Jina Choi
Marielle Lopez

Sixth Grade
Shaquille Calub
Cory Lee
Keiph Manuel
Christina Selkor
Harvey Zhang

Seventh Grade
Kinna Palacios

Eighth Grade
Yong-Bin Kim ***(PR)***

Business

Delta announces executive succession

Delta Air Lines, Inc. Board of Directors recently announced that Richard H. Anderson has chosen to retire as CEO effective May 2, 2016. At that time, Anderson will be elevated to executive chairman of the Delta Air Lines Board of Directors.

"Richard has been an outstanding leader and CEO. His unique combination of strategic and operating skills, plus his commitment to employees, corporate culture, customers and shareholders has redefined Delta and led to an entirely new and better way of flying around the world. Under Richard's leadership, Delta has become the most profitable and best run airline that consistently delivers excellent customer service. The entire board of directors extends hearty thanks for his service, his leadership and his thoughtful succession planning process. This succession plan has been several years in the making and will keep Delta on top of the global industry," said Dan Carp, chairman of the board.

Bastian

Ed Bastian, president of Delta, will be appointed CEO effective May 2, 2016, and Glen Hauenstein, executive vice president, will be appointed president of Delta, also effective May 2, 2016. Gil West is promoted immediately to senior executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"Ed has been a critical part of Delta's success. He is an exceptional leader and has been an invaluable partner in leading the remarkable transformation of Delta over the last decade. Likewise, Glen and Gil are extraordinary leaders who have led the transformation of Delta's network, product and operations. I hold Ed, Glen and Gil in the highest esteem, both personally and professionally, and have every confidence that they will lead Delta to even higher levels of performance," Anderson said.

"Ed Bastian will lead the best management team in the global industry. Delta's succession planning and executive development has produced the top performing executive team in the global airline industry," Carp said.

Effective immediately, the board of directors also appoints Steve Sear, president international and executive vice president global sales. Sear will lead the Atlantic, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America organizations in addition to global sales.

Upon Anderson's appointment as executive chairman on May 2, 2016, Frank Blake, a current Delta director, will be appointed lead director of the Delta Air Lines board of directors. Carp will step down as non-executive chairman and remain on the board of directors of Delta.

"Dan Carp has been an excellent mentor and colleague as the chairman of Delta since 2007, overseeing the remarkable resurgence of Delta as the recognized leader of the global aviation business," Anderson said. ***(PR)***

Companies lose billions buying back their own stock

NEW YORK (AP)—If you think your stocks are doing poorly, check out the performance of some of the most sophisticated investors, the ones with more knowledge about what's going on inside businesses than anyone else: Companies that buy their own shares.

The companies losing money on these bets are down a collective $126 billion over the past three years, a decline of 15 percent.

Many corporations would have been better off investing that cash in an index fund instead of their own stock. The overall market rose 39 percent over the same period. The companies could also have distributed that cash as dividends to shareholders, allowing them to spend what is, in the end, their money.

And it's not just a few big corporate losers accounting for all the pain. The group includes 229 companies in the Standard and Poor's 500 index, nearly half of the companies in the study prepared by FactSet for The Associated Press.

When a company shells out money to buy its own shares, Wall Street usually cheers. The move makes the company's profit per share look better, and many think buybacks have played a key role pushing stocks higher in the seven-year bull market.

But buybacks can also sap companies of cash that they could be using to grow for the future, no matter if the price of those shares rises or falls.

And the recent losses highlight another criticism: Companies may be good at finding oil or selling bathroom trinkets, but they aren't always smart stock investors. Some corporations bought ever more of their own shares even as prices tripled from financial-crisis lows and several measures showed the market was overvalued.

Obama unveils record $4.1 trillion election-year

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Tuesday unveiled a record $4.1 trillion, election-year budget that finances Democratic priorities like education, health care and climate change with new taxes on crude oil, the wealthy and big banks.

The progressive wish list, which comes as the nation's long-term fiscal outlook is deteriorating, underscores the initiatives pushed by Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, who hope to succeed Obama. Republicans dismissed the proposal as a tax-and-spend exercise.

Obama called the budget—his eighth and final one—"a roadmap to a future that embodies America's values and aspirations: a future of opportunity and security for all of our families; a rising standard of living; and a sustainable, peaceful planet for our kids."

The budget was unveiled on the same day as the New Hampshire presidential primary, with much of the focus on the political fight over Obama's successor.

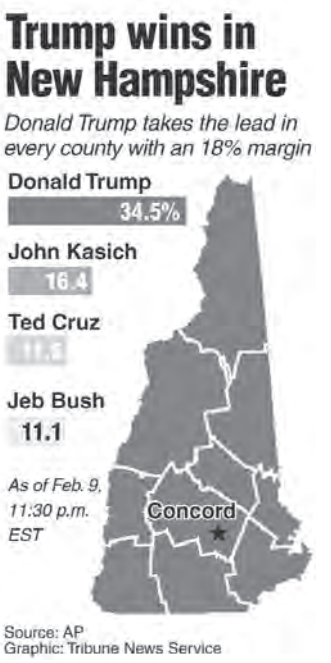
The budget calls for a major new tax on crude oil that would raise the price of gasoline, currently averaging about $1.80 a gallon nationwide, by about 24 cents. All told, its tax hikes would average more than a quarter-trillion dollars a year to cover deficits made worse by a softening economic picture. The $2.8 trillion net tax hike package would almost double the tax increases Obama sought—and was denied—last year.

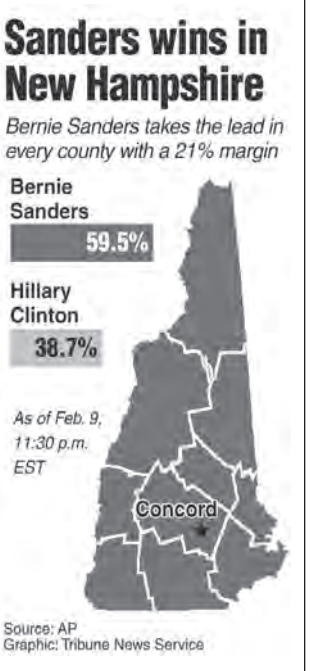
"This isn't even a budget so much as it is a progressive manual for growing the federal government at the expense of hardworking Americans," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

Nation

Trump and Sanders big winners, riding voter frustration

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP)—Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders rode a wave of voter frustration with American politics to commanding victories in Tuesday's New Hampshire primaries, adding crucial credibility to their upstart candidacies.





Sanders swept majorities of men, women, independents and young people in his win over Hillary Clinton, but faces challenges in the more diverse states that come next on the primary calendar. Trump, appealing to voters seeking a political outsider, could benefit from the persistent lack of clarity among the more mainstream Republicans struggling to challenge him.

"We are going to do something so good and so fast and so strong and the world is going to respect us again, believe me," Trump said at a victory rally.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich grabbed second in New Hampshire after pouring nearly all of his campaign resources into the state. Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio vied for third along with Ted Cruz, the Iowa caucus winner, ensuring all would press on to the next voting contest in South Carolina.

Sanders, at his own raucous rally, said his victory sent a message "that will echo from Wall Street to Washington, from Maine to California. And that is that the government of our great country belongs to all of the people and not just a handful of wealthy campaign contributors and their super PACs."

The enthusiasm behind Trump, a real estate mogul who has never held political office, and Vermont Sen. Sanders, who says he is a democratic socialist, underscores the public's anger with the current political and economic system. Even if neither candidate ultimately becomes his party's nominee, whoever wins that nomination will have to reckon with the voter frustration they've tapped into.

Clinton appeared to recognize that reality in her concession speech, echoing Sanders' calls for taking on Wall Street banks and tackling income inequality. But she cast herself as more prepared to make good on her pledges.

"People have every right to be angry. But they're also hungry, they're hungry for solutions," she said after congratulating Sanders on his win.

Supreme Court puts Obama's Clean Power Plan on hold

WASHINGTON (AP)—A divided Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to halt enforcement of President Barack Obama's sweeping plan to address climate change until after legal challenges are resolved.

The surprising move is a blow to the administration and a victory for the coalition of 27 mostly Republican-led states and industry opponents that call the regulations "an unprecedented power grab."

By issuing the temporary freeze, a 5-4 majority of the justices signaled that opponents made strong arguments against the rules. The high court's four liberal justices said Tuesday they would have denied the request for delay.

The Obama administration's plan aims to stave off the worst predicted impacts of climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions at existing power plants by about one-third by 2030.

"We disagree with the Supreme Court's decision to stay the Clean Power Plan while litigation proceeds," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said in a statement.

Earnest said the administration's plan is based on a strong legal and technical foundation, and gives the states time to develop cost-effective plans to reduce emissions. He also said the administration will continue to "take aggressive steps to make forward progress to reduce carbon emissions."

A federal appeals court in Washington last month refused to put the plan on hold. That lower court is not likely to issue a ruling on the legality of the plan until months after it hears oral arguments begin on June 2.

Any decision will likely be appealed to the Supreme Court, meaning resolution of the legal fight is not likely to happen until after Obama leaves office.

Compliance with the new rules isn't required until 2022, but states must submit their plans to the Environmental Protection Administration by September or seek an extension.

Many states opposing the plan depend on economic activity tied to such fossil fuels as coal, oil and gas. They argued that the plan oversteps federal authority to restrict carbon emissions, and that electricity providers would have to spend billions of dollars to begin complying with a rule that might end up being overturned.

Attorney General Patrick Morrisey of West Virginia, whose coal-dependent state is helping lead the legal fight, hailed the court's decision.

"We are thrilled that the Supreme Court realized the rule's immediate impact and froze its implementation, protecting workers and saving countless dollars as our fight against its legality continues," Morrisey said.

Asia

Developers of toppled Taiwan building detained

TAINAN, Taiwan (AP)—Three Taiwanese construction company executives have been detained on charges of professional negligence resulting in death following the collapse of an apartment building that killed dozens.

The district prosecutor's office in the city of Tainan said in a statement Wednesday that Lin Ming-hui and architects Chang Kui-an and Cheng Chin-kui were suspected of having overseen shoddy construction of the 17-story Weiguan Golden Dragon building, which crashed onto its side following an earthquake Saturday.

The statement said the three were detained to prevent collusion or other acts that could disrupt the investigation. Among the accusations was that only half as many fasteners had been used in the supporting columns as required.

The death toll in the 6.4 magnitude quake stood at 44 on Wednesday, with all but two of the deaths coming in the building collapse. About 100 people are believed to still be trapped in the debris.

The broadcaster FTV and other Taiwanese media said Lin had changed his name after a previous bankruptcy and had run multiple property development companies in Tainan an apparent attempt to avoid creditors and bilked clients.

Although the shallow quake was potentially devastating, few buildings were damaged as a result of strict construction standards in force in Taiwan, an island frequently struck by quakes. The Weiguan Golden Dragon building, built in 1989, was the only major structure to collapse in the temblor.

Most of the 320 people who were rescued from the disaster were saved in the hours immediately after the quake, in which the building's foundation and lower floors gave way before it toppled onto its side.

Earthquakes rattle Taiwan frequently. Most are minor and cause little or no damage, though a magnitude 7.6 quake in central Taiwan in 1999 killed more than 2,300 people. More stringent building standards were introduced following that disaster and appear to have been tightly enforced.

The quake struck during the most important family holiday in the Chinese calendar - the Lunar New Year.

The extended Lunar New Year holiday—the most important family holiday in the Chinese calendar—officially started Monday, but celebrations in Taiwan have been subdued.

Closely fought Philippine presidential race gets underway

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine presidential candidates launched their campaigns Tuesday in festive showbiz-style rallies to draw in the crowds in what is emerging as a closely fought contest to lead one of Asia's most unwieldy democracies.

From Manila's slums to the countryside, the candidates competed to captivate the Filipino everyman at the start of the 3-month campaign leading to the May 9 vote. They promised to cure the same ailments that have hounded the Southeast Asian nation for decades: widespread poverty, corruption, crime and insurgencies.

President Benigno Aquino III's single six-year term ends in June.

Three decades since the Southeast Asian nation of more than 100 million people emerged from dictatorship with the 1986 "people power" revolt, the economy has grown steadily under Aquino, who rose to power on a promise to battle corruption and poverty.

His predecessor was detained on an election fraud charge and three prominent senators were detained on corruption charges under Aquino's anti-graft fight. Aquino says his term has turned around the drift and hopelessness that preceded his presidency.

Rallies on Tuesday featuring singers, dancers and celebrities helped many of the candidates draw the public's attention to how they would deal with the country's long-standing social ills.

Most sniped at their rivals in lengthy speeches.

"It's like a fiesta, beauty contest, sitcom and drama all rolled into one," political analyst Ramon Casiple said. "And of course politics here is like a boxing match."

The leading contenders are seen as Sen. Grace Poe, the adopted daughter of a popular movie couple, and Vice President Jejomar Binay, followed by former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, who has been endorsed by the president. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, known for his tough anti-crime campaign in southern Davao city, and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago are also among the candidates.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN official asks Sri Lanka to locate people missing from war

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The top United Nations human rights official asked Sri Lanka's government on Tuesday to quickly locate thousands of civilians reported missing during the country's civil war. The government has said most are probably dead. Many ethnic Tamil civilians have not been heard from since they were taken from their homes by police or military personnel or abducted by pro-government militias during the war, which ended in 2009. Tamil politicians have handed over a list of more than 4,000 people reported missing to visiting U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, with the dates and locations they were last seen.

Indian soldier buried by avalanche saved; 9 bodies recovered

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—An Indian soldier buried by an avalanche for six days in the Himalayan region of Kashmir has been found alive and was pulled from the snow, along with the bodies of nine other soldiers, officials said Tuesday. The enormous avalanche slammed into an Indian army post last Wednesday and trapped the 10 soldiers on the northern end of Siachen Glacier, the highest point along the heavily militarized line of control between India and Pakistan. After a day of searching for survivors, the army had said Thursday that the chance of finding survivors was "very remote." However, soldier Hanamanthappa Koppad was found conscious and disoriented on Monday night, as he was pulled up from under at least 11 meters (35 feet) of snow, an Indian army statement said on Tuesday.

Pakistan army training aircraft crashes, 2 dead

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's army says a training aircraft has crashed near Gujranwala in the eastern Punjab province, killing the instructor and trainee who were on board. An army statement Tuesday said the Mushaq aircraft was on a routine training flight when it crashed in a field. The army did not say what caused the crash.

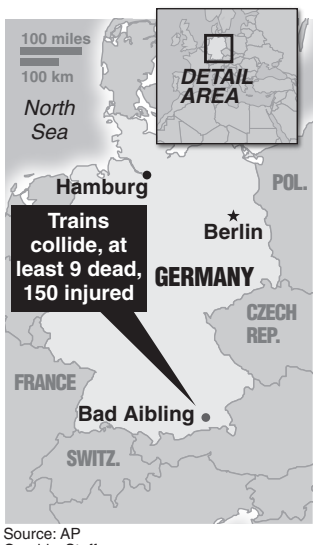
World

Train crash in Germany kills at least 10, injures 80

BAD AIBLING, Germany (AP)—Two commuter trains crashed head-on Tuesday in southern Germany, killing 10 people and injuring 80 as they slammed into each other on a curve after an automatic safety braking system apparently failed, the transport minister said.

The regional trains collided before 7 a.m. (0600 GMT) on the single line that runs near Bad Aibling in the German state of Bavaria. Aerial footage shot by The Associated Press showed that the impact tore the two engines apart, shredded metal train cars and flipped several of them on their sides off the rails.

The first emergency units were on the scene within three minutes of receiving the call, but with a river on one side and a forest on the other, it took hours to reach some of the injured in the wreckage. Hundreds of rescue crews using helicopters and small boats shuttled injured passengers to the other side of the Mangfall River to waiting ambulances, which took them to hospitals across southern Bavaria.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff

Nine people were reported dead immediately while a tenth died later in a hospital, police spokesman Stefan Sonntag said, adding that the two train drivers were thought to be among the dead and one person was still missing in the wreckage.

"We have little more than hope of finding them still alive," he said. "This is the biggest accident we have had in years in this region."

German rail operator Deutsche Bahn said safety systems on the stretch had been checked as recently as last week, but Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt suggested that a system designed to automatically brake trains if they accidentally end up on the same track didn't seem to have functioned properly.

Dobrindt, however, said it was too early to draw a definitive conclusion.

"The site is on a curve. We have to assume that the train drivers had no visual contact and hit each other without braking," Dobrindt told reporters in Bad Aibling, adding that speeds of up to 100 kph (60 mph) were possible on the stretch.

Black boxes from both trains had been recovered and are now being analyzed, which should show what went wrong, Dobrindt said.

"We need to determine immediately whether it was a technical problem or a human mistake," he said.

IS car bomb in Syrian capital kills 10

BEIRUT (AP)—A suicide car bomber dispatched by the Islamic State group struck near a police officers' club in the Syrian capital on Tuesday, killing at least 10 people and destroying a number of cars.

Syrian state TV reported the toll and showed footage of the aftermath in Damascus, including several damaged vehicles and a burnt-out car. The police officers' club was next to a vegetable market.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition group that tracks the civil war, said the blast killed eight policemen and wounded 20.

The IS group claimed the bombing in a statement circulated by its followers on Twitter, saying it was carried out by a fighter known as Abu Abdul-Rahman al-Shami. It vowed more attacks.

The blast came a day after an international rights group said Syrian government forces and the Russian military have been carrying out daily cluster bomb attacks over the past two weeks in Syria, killing 37 people.

The Human Rights Watch report, released Monday, said that cluster munitions, which are widely banned, have been used in at least 14 attacks across five provinces since Jan. 26.

The attacks killed at least 37 civilians, including six women and nine children, and wounded dozens, HRW said.

In Central America, gangs an obstacle in battle against Zika

CUSCATANCINGO, El Salvador (AP)—For health workers battling Zika across much of Central America, the immediate menace is not the mosquitos that transmit the virus. It's the gangsters who control the streets, and sometimes threaten their lives.

Armed and well-organized street gangs known as maras exert near-total control over entire neighborhoods, using sentries to track everyone who comes and goes. In some cases, they deny access to health crews they suspect of working with police or a rival gang.

In 2014, an emergency medical technician accompanying a fumigation team in greater San Salvador was shot dead by mara members after they lifted his shirt and, according to local media reports, found he had a tattoo from a rival gang. Similar incidents have played out in neighboring Honduras and in Guatemala, where fumigators are chased by thugs, assaulted or charged a small tax for access.

"The state is absent" in such areas, said Carlos Carcach, a criminologist with the Superior School of Economics and Business in El Salvador. "The state is being replaced by the gang."

More than 7,000 suspected cases of Zika have been identified in El Salvador, where government officials have advised women to put off pregnancies for two years due to severe birth defects tentatively linked to the virus. The country has also launched a campaign against the Aedes aegypti mosquito, relying on aggressive fumigation and the removal of standing water and refuse where its larvae can breed.

But El Salvador, a country of just 6 million people, recorded more than 700 murders in January and had a homicide rate of 103 per 100,000 inhabitants last year, believed to be the highest of any country not in open war.

That's the environment in which government health workers struggle to contain Zika.

Environment

Post-Flint, demand for more EPA water protections may be difficult for some states to swallow

By ED FELKER
CQ-ROLL CALL

WASHINGTON—The contamination crisis in Flint, Mich., has thrown a harsh national spotlight on the problem of lead in drinking water, especially in poor and minority communities. Yet the issue is hardly new—Washington, D.C., had its own infamous lead scandal in 2004, among other communities that have seen lead spikes.

Now health advocates are calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to quickly toughen the protections that states must require of local water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Among the mandates on the table is the eventual and costly replacement of all lead pipes in drinking water systems, rather than just those shown to be an immediate threat to health.

The EPA has been holding talks since 2010 on long-term revisions to its Lead and Copper Rule, last updated in 2007 after two years of deliberations.

The rule requires states to enforce the law by making sure local water systems take precautions to keep lead out of the drinking water supplies, such as treating water to limit the leaching of lead in pipes, a process known as corrosion control.

The EPA has said it will propose the revisions in 2017, an action that will take on new importance in light of the exposure of families in Flint to high levels of lead, a strong neurotoxin that can affect child brain development and behavior, and cause illness in adults.

One of those who hopes the problems that surfaced in Flint are addressed in the revisions is Hilliard L. Hampton II. Last year, he ended 16 years as mayor of Inkster, Mich., a small majority African-American suburb about 75 miles south of Flint that has had its own share of financial problems.

Hampton sits on the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, which advises the EPA on implementation of the law. The council in December sent Administrator Gina McCarthy an eight-point set of recommendations to revise the lead rule.

He signed off on the advisory council's recommendations, which came out of a working group that met seven times over 15 months, ending last summer as the Flint crisis was coming to light.

The list urged more emphasis on lead water pipe replacement and proper corrosion control measures to prevent leaching of lead. It also urged greater use of test samples from home water taps and action when results show heightened levels.

He pointed to a broad recommendation by the council that EPA should use the revised rule to minimize all contact between drinking water and lead pipes, and focus on low-income and vulnerable consumers.

"It epitomizes where I would like us to be, in terms of making sure there are no loopholes. We want to remove all lead pipes from water, potable water, totally."

Hampton sees some parallels between his town and Flint. The state under Republican Gov. Rick Snyder also considered installing an emergency manager in Inkster, but a consent agreement in 2012 requiring spending cuts by the town averted that outcome.

Inkster also relies on Detroit for its water, as did Flint, until the Snyder-appointed emergency manager in 2014 switched its source to the Flint River. Still, some areas in Inkster have shown elevated lead levels in drinking water, Hampton said.

He also wants rapid action on the flaws that led to the contamination in Flint, such as requirements for a review of corrosion control when a new water source is tapped by a water system.

"Strengthening protocols—addressing leaching and the corrosion control—are things that need to be done immediately, they need to be strengthened immediately," Hampton said.

States expect to face additional burdens under a revised EPA lead rule, said Jim Taft, executive director of the Association of State Drinking Water Officials, whose members were involved in writing the council's recommendations.

His group, which represents non-appointed state officials, supports the suggestions to the EPA and wants to see the Flint revelations incorporated into the agency's proposal next year, Taft said.

"States probably feel that there likely will be some additional requirements of them beyond those that exist now," he said. "But I think states also feel we collectively as a drinking water community, as a country, need to improve on the existing regulation. The fundamental thrust of the recommendations from the (council) are to get the lead out."

Marc Edwards, a Virginia Tech professor and national water expert credited with uncovering the Flint contamination as well as lead exposure in Washington, has been a vocal critic of the EPA's inaction in Flint despite early warnings from an employee in its Chicago office, Miguel Del Toral.

He's also been a critic of what he says are weaknesses in the Lead and Copper Rule, such as allowing states to sign off on drinking water sampling methods that underestimate lead content in some homes—a flaw that led Flint and Michigan officials to say the city's water was safe to drink.

Edwards, who was appointed by Snyder on Jan. 27 to an official 17-member committee to address Flint's long term health and water infrastructure needs, did not respond to a request for comment.

But in a blog post in November, he said the objectives of the rule have "never been realized" because no tests are required on drinking water that has been sitting in lead pipes. "In other words, millions of consumers who are currently being told that their water is safe, are drinking and cooking with water that routinely dispenses high concentrations of lead," he added.

The EPA has said that while its long-term revisions to the rule will not come this year, a spokeswoman also noted in a statement to CQ Roll Call that the agency is taking the Flint crisis into account in that process and potential short-term revisions.

"EPA will carefully evaluate these recommendations, national experience in implementing the rule, and the experience in Flint to develop a proposed revision to the rule," she said, referring to the advisory council's list.

"But even as the agency considers revisions, it will continue to engage with state and water systems on potential nearer-term steps that could strengthen implementation of the existing rule."

EPA officials met with Flint residents in January, as did President Barack Obama, who spoke with Flint Mayor Karen Weaver on Jan. 19.

The moves to revise the rule come as the agency works to implement a separate law, the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act, passed in 2011 that lowers the allowable lead in plumbing fixtures and materials to a quarter of 1 percent, down from the current standard of 8 percent.

The future of the rule could also be affected by Congress, where legislation indicates how expensive the repairs to the Flint water system could become for taxpayers.

Three Michigan Democratic lawmakers—Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, and Rep. Dan Kildee—have unveiled legislation that would require the EPA to alert the public when lead is detected in drinking water, if local and state officials do not act.

The EPA withheld notification of its concerns to Flint residents last year, which was among the factors that led to a public uproar and the resignation of the administrator of Region 5, Susan Hedman, effective Feb. 1.

Her departure was announced with an emergency order by McCarthy that requires the state and Flint to take immediate steps to address the crisis, including increased public notice and sampling.

They would also direct $400 million to the EPA to repair or replace Flint's water infrastructure. The money would require a dollar-for-dollar state match; Snyder estimated in an application for federal disaster assistance that the damages to Flint's public and private water lines total more than $767 million.

Another $200 million over 10 years would be spent on a new federal center in the Health and Human Services Department to support Flint residents exposed to lead.

Snyder, at a news conference on Jan. 27, said any totals for the replacement of lead service lines in Flint are nonetheless "speculation" until a complete assessment is made, and that the short-term goal is to recoat pipes that were corroded by Flint River water to prevent lead leaching.

Regarding replacing the lead pipes, Snyder said, "That's one of the issues we have to look at statewide, and that's a national issue. … There are lead pipes in many places, and you have to come up with the proper priorities in terms of how do you replace that infrastructure."

AP

Flint resident Sheree Walker holds onto her 5-month-old son Ryder Walker as to U.S. Public Health Service health officials prick his foot with a needle, collecting blood for a free lead test on Monday, Feb. 8, 2016 at Carriage Town Ministries in Flint, Mich. Molina Healthcare provided children up to six years of age with free lead testing, as well as water filters for families to take home and install.

Lead exposure

Exposure to lead can cause numerous health problems, and there may be no amount of lead exposure that is completely safe. Here's a list of some of the possible effects.

Symptoms in newborns
- Learning difficulties
- Slowed growth

Symptoms in children
- Developmental delay
- Learning difficulties
- Irritability
- Appetite loss
- Weight loss
- Fatigue
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Constipation
- Hearing loss

Symptoms in adults
- High blood pressure
- Abdominal pain
- Constipation
- Joint and muscle pain
- Declines in mental function
- Pain, numbness
- Headache
- Memory loss
- Mood disorders
- Reduced sperm count
- Miscarriage, premature birth

Source: Mayo Clinic, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Life & Style

LL Cool J learns family secret in 'Finding Your Roots'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LL Cool J's childhood was scarred by his parents' separation and violence, with his maternal grandparents stepping in to give him a loving home and appreciation of music.

But the couple kept a secret from both LL Cool J and his mother: She was adopted, as the hip-hop artist and actor learns in PBS' "Finding Your Roots."

Series host Henry Louis Gates Jr. guides him down a winding DNA trail that uncovers his mother's adoption as a baby in 1947, her birth parents' identity and a family history that includes 1930s champion boxer John Henry Lewis.

And more: There's an unusual African-American record of 19th-century freedom from slavery on one side of LL Cool J's family tree, Gates notes.

The episode, which also traces Sean "Diddy" Combs' ancestry, airs Tuesday on PBS stations (check local listings for times), the day after LL Cool J hosts the Grammy Awards on CBS.

AP

In this Jan. 31, 2016 file photo, LL Cool J attends the 20th Annual Art Directors Guild Excellence In Production Design Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"This doesn't change how I feel about the people that raised me," LL Cool J, the "NCIS: Los Angeles" star born James Todd Smith, says of his adoptive grandparents. "I have more love and respect for them than I ever did."

Eugene Griffith and Ellen Hightower took LL Cool J and his mom, Ondrea Griffith, into their home after she and his father split. His grandparents "embraced me, they built me up. They made me believe in myself," he recounts on the program.

Eugene Griffith was a jazz musician, he recalls, and gifted him with a guitar when the future Grammy winner was 8 years old.

LL Cool J's mother, who appears on the show, said she understands that the couple "had their reasons" for not revealing they'd adopted her as an infant.

Gates said it was decided it wouldn't be right to surprise LL Cool J on camera with the DNA evidence, instead informing him first in a private phone conversation.

The unraveling of LL Cool J's hidden family history also uncovered a rough parallel to the violence he witnessed as a child, when his grandfather and mother were wounded in a shooting involving his father.

In 1882, his maternal great-grandfather witnessed an accidental shooting that claimed the life of his mother.

Ex-bodyguard testifies about lewd messages sent to Paltrow

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury hearing a case against an Ohio man charged with stalking Gwyneth Paltrow heard testimony Tuesday about pornographic messages and sex toys he sent her earlier in her career.

Paltrow's former bodyguard Dennis Bridwell read some of the explicit messages he said were sent by Dante Soiu to the Oscar winner roughly 17 years ago.

Lynda Westlund, an attorney for the 66-year-old Soiu, repeatedly objected to Bridwell's testimony about the items that were part of the previous case that resulted in Soiu being sent to a mental institution for several years.

The current case focuses on Soiu's recent messages to the Oscar-winner. He is accused of sending Paltrow 66 letters and packages between 2009 and 2015, with some containing messages about religion, his desire to marry her and her death.

He has pleaded not guilty to felony stalking. Westlund described him in her opening statement as a Christian who wrote repeatedly to Paltrow in an attempt to minister to her. Westlund argued outside the presence of the jury that the older messages—which described sexual fantasies involving Paltrow and various sex toys sent to her—were too prejudicial.

"They're hand-picked for super damaging content," Westlund argued. "It's just purely being offered for inflammatory reasons."

Judge Mark E. Windham ruled the messages might add context for jurors to understand Paltrow's fear of Soiu. "That's why it's all the more disturbing that these letters were sent," Windham said about the more recent messages.

Westlund characterized Soiu's recent writings to Paltrow as "biblical and religious ramblings."

The testimony came during the second day of Soiu's trial. Bridwell is one of the final prosecution witnesses.

A district attorney's investigator who searched Soiu's home in Ohio also testified Tuesday about handwritten notes and letters he found referencing Paltrow.

One listed his fantasies about Paltrow as a delusion.

Another note found near Soiu's computer included a list of reasons not to write to people. It stated that a letter shouldn't be written if the receiver would perceive it as threatening and mentioned that's why he was previously arrested.

Paltrow cried Monday when a prosecutor asked her whether Soiu's writings made her fear for the safety of her children. She also told jurors she was upset when she learned in 2009 that Soiu was writing her again.

Soiu was found not guilty by reason of insanity in 2000 in the previous case involving pornographic messages to Paltrow. He was sent to a mental institution, then re-arrested last year after sending the actress new correspondence.

AP

In this Nov. 7, 2015 file photo, Gwyneth Paltrow attends LACMA 2015 Art+Film Gala at LACMA in Los Angeles.

Police: Jay Cutler's brother-in-law death was accidental

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A medical examiner has determined NFL quarterback Jay Cutler's brother-in-law's death was accidental, saying Michael Cavallari died of hypothermia after he crashed his car during a frigid temperatures while passing through a rocky and rural part of southern Utah.

Grand County Sheriff officials announced the findings Tuesday in a news release. The 30-year-old Michael Cavallari is the brother of reality TV personality Kristin Cavallari.

Grand County Sheriff Steven White said they are waiting on toxicology reports to find out if Michael Cavallari had any drugs in his system. White said the autopsy report closes the case, but questions may forever linger about what exactly happened.

His body was found at the bottom of a steep hillside filled with boulders on Dec. 10, about two weeks after his abandoned car was found with the engine running and the air bag deployed about 200 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Temperatures in the area were at or below freezing every night in the days after the car was found up against a small embankment.

"I don't know if he thought he saw lights or something and started walking?" White said. "We just don't know."

Investigators believed he was just passing through Utah, but they don't know where he was headed or what he was doing in Utah.

Cavallari's family was notified earlier this week, White said.

Kristin Cavallari declined comment through her publicist.

Michael Cavallari had been arrested in California four days before his car was found on allegations that he acted threateningly toward a woman and had a gun.

He bailed out of jail Nov. 25. Two days later, a rancher discovered the car near a dirt road about 5 miles from Interstate 70.

He was single and had no children.

Kristin Cavallari rose to fame in the mid-2000s when she appeared in the MTV reality series "Laguna Beach" and "The Hills." She is married to Cutler, who starred at Vanderbilt University and now plays for the Chicago Bears. The couple has three children together.

Megan Fox is new 'New Girl' filling in for Zooey Deschanel

NEW YORK (AP)—Jake Johnson admits to being worried when he found out his Fox comedy "New Girl" would continue filming episodes while the show's star, Zooey Deschanel, was on maternity leave.

"I thought it was really weird," he said. "At first I thought it was really jarring that Zooey wasn't going to be in some episodes. ... I wasn't sure if the show worked without her and I was pleasantly surprised that the 'New Girl' voice and tone is more about the writing and the ensemble more than any one person."

Not only did production continue, they brought in a new character, played by Megan Fox of franchise films like "Transformers" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," to fill the void while Deschanel was away.

AP

In this image released by Fox, Megan Fox, left, and Hannah Simone appear in a scene from "New Girl," airing Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 8:00 p.m. ET on FOX. Fox will guest star on the popular Fox comedy while star Zooey Deschanel is on maternity leave.

"I thought 'How does Megan Fox, international movie star. ...fit into this world?'" said Johnson. "And the wild part is she just fits in."

If you've been watching, Deschanel's character, Jess, has been sequestered on jury duty. In Tuesday's episode, her roommates (played by Johnson, Max Greenfield, Lamorne Morris and Hannah Simone) decide to rent out her room to Fox's character, Reagan, while Jess is away.

"To bring in somebody new who didn't know all of the backstories and didn't know everything about the show, those characters were forced to defend themselves in new ways; to sort of bring somebody else up to speed to their own weirdness was really fun," said showrunner Liz Meriwether.

"She's phenomenal," Johnson said about Fox. "I didn't know her at all (prior). She is one of the easiest people to work with. She's kind, she's funny. She's also crazy and loves talking about aliens and lizard people, which makes work so fun," he laughed. "She's genuinely fun."

Former NYC Ballet principal dancer Violette Verdy, 82, dies

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—Violette Verdy, principal dancer for New York City Ballet for 20 years and former artistic director of the Paris Opera Ballet and Boston Ballet, has died, the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music announced. She was 82.

Verdy's assistant, Robin Allen, confirmed the ballerina died Monday in Bloomington after a brief illness, Jacobs School spokeswoman Dana Navarro said Tuesday.

A leading ballerina of the 20th century, Verdy joined the New York City Ballet in 1958 and danced more than 25 principal roles in a performance career that extended through 1977.

She performed in over 100 different ballets with works by more than 50 choreographers, including classics "Giselle," ''Swan Lake," ''The Sleeping Beauty," ''Romeo and Juliet" and "Cinderella."

Verdy worked as a teacher and coach with more than 150 professional companies and schools worldwide. She served as principal guest teacher to The School of American Ballet in New York City and as artistic adviser to the Académie Américaine de Danse de Paris.

She was the first woman to be artistic director of the Paris Opera Ballet , from 1977 to 1980, and the first to hold a university faculty chair position solely for ballet. She joined the ballet faculty of the Jacobs School in 1996.

She appeared on stage, film and television include the title role in Ludwig Berger's film "Ballerina" (1950) and the MGM film "The Glass Slipper" (1955). She also was a published author of children's literature, including "Of Swans, Sugarplums and Satin Slippers: Ballet Stories for Children" (1991) and "Giselle: A Role for a Lifetime" (1970).

She was born Dec. 1, 1933, in the working-class seacoast town of Pont-l'Abbe in northwest France and christened Nelly Armande Guillerm by her parents. She changed her name to Violette Verdy at age 15.

Cosby's ex-lawyer dismissed from lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Tuesday dismissed model Janice Dickinson's defamation claim filed against Bill Cosby's former lawyer for denying her allegations that the comedian had drugged and raped her in 1982.

However, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Debre Katz Weintraub did not dismiss defamation allegations made against Cosby in the same lawsuit.

Weintraub ruled that Dickinson cannot sue attorney Martin Singer because his denial of her allegations was known to her at the time she sued Cosby in May.

Dickinson's lawyers later amended her lawsuit to add the defamation allegations against Singer.

"We are very pleased with the ruling," Singer's attorney Andrew Brettler said. "We believe the court got it right."

Also on Tuesday, Cosby's lawyers asked that a separate defamation lawsuit filed in federal court in Massachusetts be put on hold while he defends himself in a criminal case in Pennsylvania, where he is accused of drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

In the Massachusetts case, seven women allege that Cosby defamed them when his representatives branded them as liars after they went public with allegations he sexually assaulted them decades ago. Cosby has denied their allegations and has filed a countersuit against them.

Dickinson has said Cosby drugged and raped her in Lake Tahoe, California, in 1982. She never reported the rape to authorities and has said she was afraid if she did that her career would be damaged and Cosby would retaliate.

AP

In this Dec. 30, 2015 file photo Bill Cosby, center, accompanied by his attorneys Brian McMonagle, left, and Monique Pressley, arrives at court to face a felony charge of aggravated indecent assault, in Elkins Park, Pa.

Best friend is ready for more than a simple kiss goodnight

DEAR ABBY: "Roger" and I have been seeing each other for two years. (We are both 50.) He is very handsome. We go to movies, ride our bikes together, work out at the gym and attend other events. He calls me every night, sends emails during the day—even calls me when he's on a break from work.

He never asks me to pay for anything and sends me flowers on special occasions. He will kiss me goodnight, but he has never held my hand or been affectionate in any other way. People we see think we're married or seriously dating and have asked about it. He tells them we just "hang out" and that he's just a friend.

Roger says he's seeing only me, but he's on a dating website every night instant messaging younger women and talking to them for hours. I know it because one of my girlfriends is on the same site and checked it out for me.

My friend says Roger is a good companion and I should stay with it. But I'm attractive and accomplished. I think I deserve a fuller relationship with someone who is less platonic. Abby, what do you think?

HANGING UP ON HANGING OUT

DEAR HANGING UP: Roger has made it no secret that he's comfortable with the relationship as it is and doesn't intend for it to progress. It appears the two of you are best friends. (Nowhere did you mention that you are in love with him.)

I do think that after all this time you should ask him why the relationship hasn't become sexual. The answer may be that Roger is impotent, asexual or he's just not interested in you that way. If that's OK with you, then continue what appears to be a pleasant relationship. However, if you need more—and I think you do -- then it's time for you to move on.

DEAR ABBY: My mother won't stop nagging me about marriage. She insists that I "must" be married by the age of 22 and have kids by 25, which I think is inconceivable. Abby, I'm only 17. Marriage and boys are the last things on my mind.

I have told her that her "talks" make me uncomfortable and I don't plan on getting married anytime soon (if ever), but she won't let up. She keeps saying she knows she's right, and that when I'm 22 I'll thank her, which I know isn't going to happen. Other than this, she's great and we don't have any other problems.

She has been saying this a lot recently because I'm going off to college this year, and that's where she thinks I'll find a husband. How can I get through to her?

VIRGIN TERRITORY

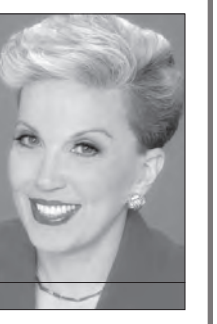
DEAR VIRGIN TERRITORY: It would be interesting to know why your mother feels this way. Could she have been born and raised in a culture in which early marriage and motherhood are expected of women?

With her mindset, I don't think you will "win" an argument with her over this. Be patient with her and when she raises the subject, point out that women of your generation are expected to complete their education and be able to support themselves financially before they marry in case the need arises later (i.e. divorce or widowhood). It's a fact. Women in the United States —particularly college-educated women—are now marrying and having children later than they did a generation ago.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

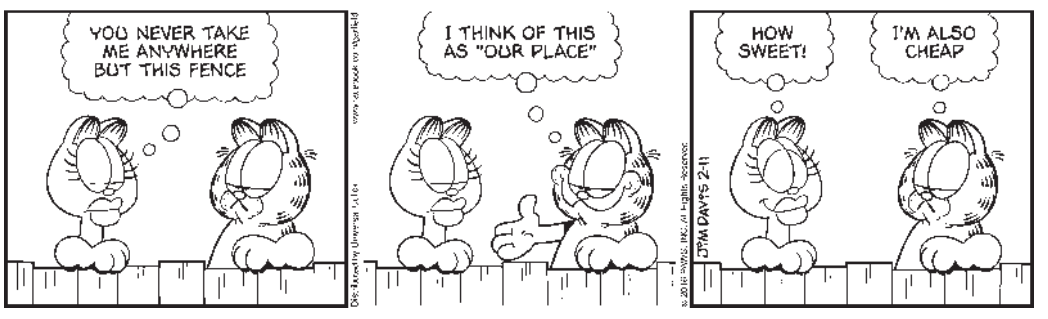
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'D LIKE TO GET A VALENTINE BOUQUET FOR A GIRL I KNOW.
WHAT A SWEET LITTLE BOY YOU ARE! COME SEE WHAT WE HAVE.
IS THIS ALL?
DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IN MIND?
SORT OF. DO YOU HAVE A DUMPSTER OUT BACK I COULD ROOT THROUGH?

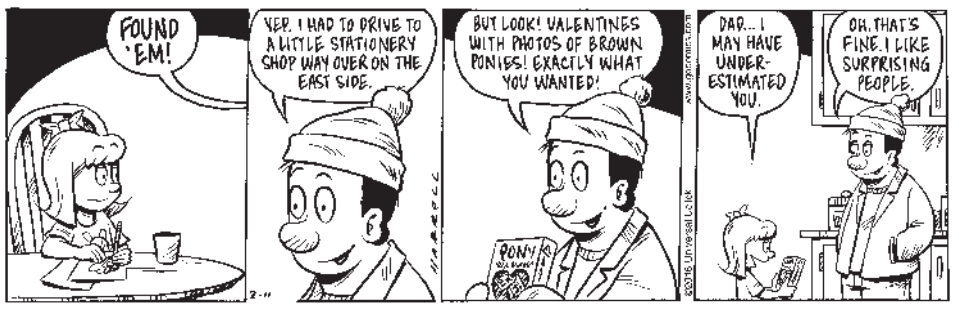
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



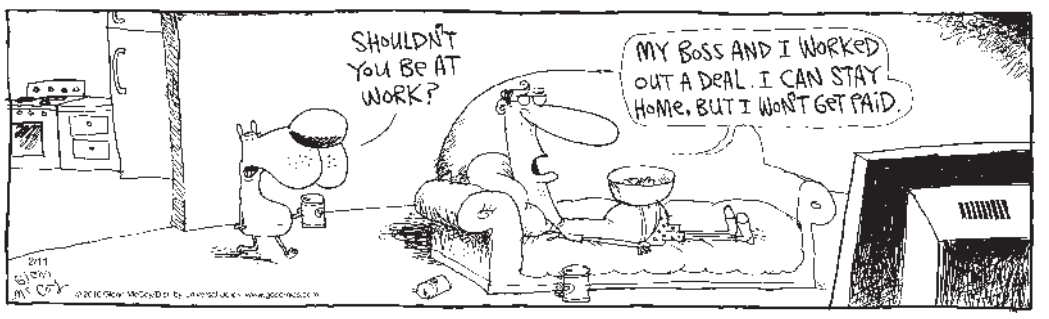
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


FOUND 'EM!
YEP. I HAD TO DRIVE TO A LITTLE STATIONERY SHOP WAY OVER ON THE EAST SIDE.
BUT LOOK! VALENTINES WITH PHOTOS OF BROWN PONIES! EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANTED!
DAD... I MAY HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU.
OH. THAT'S FINE. I LIKE SURPRISING PEOPLE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sneaky laugh
4 Solidify
8 Bears' hands
12 Enzyme suffix
13 Director Kazan
14 October birthstone
15 Hand-held firework
17 Vocal quality
18 Jamie Foxx biopic
19 Succumbed to gravity
21 Bumpkins
24 "Tasty!"
25 Citrus drink
26 Bagel topper
28 Wheelchair access points
32 Superman's alter-ego
34 The Big Apple, briefly
36 Give a darn
37 Malia's sister
39 Microwave
41 Soap unit
42 Swelled head
44 Tropical fruit
46 Stove work-space
50 Honey holder
51 Wrinkled fruit
52 Hogwash
56 Maui garlands
57 Baby carriage
58 Compass pt.
59 Late July babies
60 "For — jolly good ..."
61 Sony rival

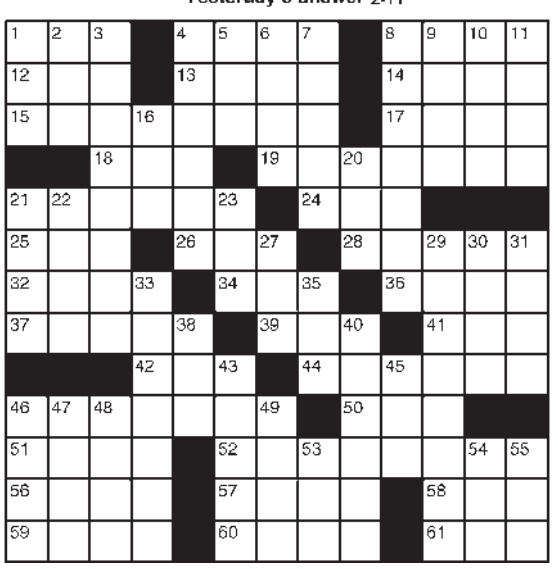
DOWN

1 Owns
2 Mentalist's claim
3 Listens, quaintly
4 Hyde's counterpart
5 Right angle
6 Fibbed
7 Bird or King
8 D.C.'s river
9 Per person
10 Fade away
11 Santa's ride
16 "Norma —"
20 Wilder's "— Town"
21 Tibetan herd
22 Classic theaters
23 Junior
27 Alphabet end
29 Legendary crime matriarch
30 Use a rosary
31 Antitoxins
33 "Romantic" Rodin sculpture
35 Upper limit
38 Literary rep
40 — party (sleepover)
43 Pizzazz
45 Standard
46 Select from a group
47 Curved molding
48 Medley
49 Rid of rind
53 Vegas opener?
54 Computer key
55 Verily

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	C	F		M	B	A	S		P	A	W	S
O	R	O		R	E	N	O		O	R	A	L
O	S	U		D	E	A	R	D	I	A	R	Y
¯	C	R	R	E			T	A	R			
			F	E	S	T		B	O	S	O	M
D	A	R	K	D	A	Y	S		T	I	N	A
E	V	A		S	I	K	H	S		S	E	T
B	O	R	G		D	E	C	P	D	I	S	H
S	W	E	A	T		S	A	R	I			
			M	O	O			I	M	A	G	F
D	J	M	B	S	D	O	W	N		T	R	A
O	R	E	O		D	R	A	G		O	U	T
E	L	A	L		S	E	X	Y		P	B	S

Yesterday's answer 2-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Lautner, 24; Kelly Rowland, 35; Jennifer Aniston, 47; Sheryl Crow, 54.

Happy Birthday: Refuse to give in to uncertainty and confusion. Work through every challenge or obstacle using reason, and you will find a way to make the most of every situation you face. Let charm take over, and it will not only encourage greater popularity, it will help you drum up the help you require to get things done your way. Your numbers are 3, 14, 17, 23, 25, 38, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Assess your situation and what you need to do to bring about positive changes. Someone from your past will give you false hope. Don't rely on others for help, but make sure to get jobs finished on time. Be good to yourself. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): What you do to help others will pay off. A reunion will lead to an interesting and unusual offer. Take time out for personal care. Presentation matters, so put in the effort needed to look the part. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be careful when sharing your ideas or possessions. You will attract people who have ulterior motives and could try to take credit for your work. If you don't believe in your abilities, it will be difficult to convince others to support your plans. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may not like change, but this is an ideal time to embrace something new and challenging. Let your intuition guide you in a direction that promises greater creativity and opportunity. Romance will result in new beginnings and greater security. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take the plunge and travel to a destination that offers something special. New connections will lead to a greater understanding of how you can establish yourself in a position that suits your skills, talents and qualifications. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Spend more time on yourself, your family or something you believe in. Don't take a financial risk or overspend on something questionable. An unusual situation will develop with someone you have to deal with every day. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Concentrate on what you know and what you need to learn to improve your chances of advancement. Don't be discouraged by someone who is offering negative feedback about your plans. Be true to yourself. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Speak up, share your ideas and bring about changes that will help you improve your community, neighborhood or lifestyle. A short trip will lead to a new endeavor. A romantic adventure will initiate creative ideas. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Run your ideas by someone you trust. An unforeseen problem will develop if you move too quickly or don't take the time to test your plans before you begin. Don't go overboard. Start small and build slowly. Don't make decisions based on emotions. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll face turmoil if you let things bother you. You may not be able to control what others do or say, but you can avoid attracting gossip and interference. Make your time and money count by spending it wisely. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Avoid aggressive situations that have the potential to lead to an argument. Work by yourself. Don't present what you have to offer until you are fully satisfied that you have done your best. Strive for perfection, quality and balance. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep your financial information private. An important partnership must be handled tactfully if you want to keep yourself from being taken advantage of. Avoid unpredictable people and situations. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are commanding, thoughtful and proactive. You are determined and grateful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	1			2				5
	3						6	2
			9					
			6		5	3		
9								7
		4	8		1			
					7			
5	7						3	
2				1			5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	7	4	8	1	9	3	6
8	9	1	2	6	3	7	5	4
4	6	3	5	7	9	1	2	8
7	2	4	3	9	8	6	1	5
1	8	5	7	2	6	4	9	3
6	3	9	1	4	5	2	8	7
3	4	8	9	1	7	5	6	2
5	1	2	6	3	4	8	7	9
9	7	6	8	5	2	3	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

KATE MARA — Solution: 6 letters

W	D	S	X	A	R	T	S	D	R	A	C	O	L	D
E	E	E	O	I	R	O	Y	T	N	E	W	T	B	K
A	C	L	A	C	L	E	R	O	N	O	C	I	A	A
R	Y	N	L	D	I	F	O	U	R	A	G	T	R	T
E	M	N	E	I	F	E	T	Z	S	G	I	Y	N	H
M	U	A	A	D	N	A	T	E	U	E	G	G	E	L
A	S	G	D	T	N	G	L	Y	N	I	D	N	S	E
R	I	R	O	I	T	E	T	L	D	L	A	I	D	E
S	C	O	E	R	G	I	C	O	N	E	L	S	A	N
H	A	M	O	N	F	A	R	S	N	I	C	I	O	W
A	L	N	A	O	A	P	N	B	N	N	N	R	R	O
L	S	S	L	N	A	M	E	M	Y	A	O	P	N	D
L	O	L	H	G	H	O	U	S	E	D	R	U	E	N
L	U	O	R	E	T	A	E	H	T	N	I	T	P	A
F	J	O	E	T	H	E	K	I	N	G	Z	O	O	M

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Arts, Barnes, Big Guy, Brittany, Cards, Case, Cold, Conor, Daniel, Deadfall, Four, Full of It, Gap, House, Humane, Ironclad, Joe the King, John, Kathleen, Katie, Los Angeles, Madigan Men, Man Down, Morgan, Musicals, Netflix, Open Road, Prodigy, Society, Theater, Transcendence, Tron, Twenty, Uprising, We Are Marshall, Wellington, Zoe, Zoom

Yesterday's Answer: Gear

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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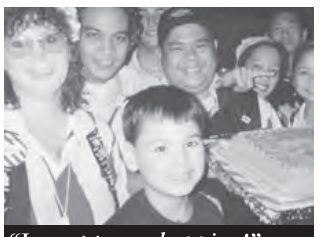

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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PER ANNUM SALARY: $20,008.00 - $31,040.00
REPORTS TO: Program Manager
LOCATION: NMPASI Office – Saipan

OVERVIEW:
The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities, seeks to hire someone who is energetic and committed to the cause of insuring that individuals with disabilities are free from abuse, neglect and other forms of discrimination resulting from their disabilities.

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:
This is an exempt professional position responsible for providing legal guidance on the day-to-day advocacy services for eligible clients with disabilities and for conducting community outreach/presentations regarding issues surrounding the needs of individuals with disabilities. The Legal Counsel is selected by a panel of NMPASI Management Staff, reports to the Program Manager and works under limited supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decisions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
- ✔ Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;
- ✔ Admitted to Practice Law in the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Island; the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
- ✔ Demonstrated interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productive working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on Middle Road approximately 100 yards north of Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for application to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resume, (3) Completed Application Forms and (4) evidence of CNMI Bar admission. Incomplete applications and/or application which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) / 235-7278 (tty) or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. ***NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.***

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Broncos revel in parade amid issues on Manning, Miller

AP

A young boy has his face painted in the colors of the Denver Broncos as he looks on at a rally following a parade through downtown Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016 in Denver. Fans crowded into Denver's downtown to salute the Broncos for the team's victory over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50.

DENVER (AP)—It took John Elway 15 years to experience a parade as a quarterback. As an executive, only five.

The Broncos general manager, however, won't have much time to celebrate. Fresh challenges await the architect of Denver's third NFL championship.

Job No. 1 is keeping this destructive defense together. That starts with re-signing Super Bowl 50 MVP Von Miller, whose monster game helped Peyton Manning become the NFL's first 200-game winner and set the stage for him to walk away a champion as Elway did 17 years ago.

Elway wants to keep Brock Osweiler, who's set to become a free agent.

Manning and Miller were the biggest topics when Elway and coach Gary Kubiak met with the media before the Broncos parade through downtown Tuesday.

They again lauded the wicked defense that snatched both the leather and the silver footballs from Cam Newton's grasp Sunday night in Santa Clara, California.

"I can still remember about a week into training camp I looked at Gary and said, 'I think we are going to be a pretty darn good defense,'" Elway said. "To do what they did against a quarterback who is probably as good as anyone in the league was historic."

While a franchise tag could buy Elway time to work out a deal with Miller that's sure to top the $52.5 million guaranteed in Justin Houston's contract, the Broncos could find themselves in a quarterback quandary if Manning retires and somebody outbids them for Osweiler.

Elway reiterated that he has no timetable for Manning to make up his mind about his future. Manning, whose offense managed a measly 194 yards in Sunday's 24-10 win, turns 40 next month. He's due $19 million next season in the final year of his contract.

"We will give him time," Elway said. "It's up to Peyton, where he is, what he thinks he can do, how he thinks he can play. You get 99 percent there in your mind, and then one percent is just as hard."

Manning's father, Archie, said after the game he felt his son was "done in Denver," if not everywhere else.

The Broncos went 5-2 in Osweiler's starts, although Manning had to rescue them in the season finale, reclaiming the starting position for the playoffs.

Elway praised Kubiak for his handling of the delicate quarterback situation over the last half of the season when Manning was sidelined with an injured left foot before reclaiming his starting job.

"It was touchy. The way he dealt with that is what takes a coach from being good to great," Elway said.

Osweiler is sure to get attention from quarterback-starved teams, but he's more valuable to the Broncos because he knows their system, has been through a Super Bowl run with them and was under Manning's wing for four years. But is Osweiler worth the megabucks and long-term deal he could get from someone else?

There are other difficult choices ahead, including those involving linebacker Danny Trevathan and defensive lineman Malik Jackson, pending free agents without whom the parade of firetrucks might have been winding through the streets of Charlotte, North Carolina, instead.

"They are all priorities," Elway said. "Getting Derek Wolfe (four years, $36.7 million) done was the first step, and we want to get Danny and Malik done. We want to try and keep the group together. But it's a fluid process. We will talk to their representatives and see where we are at and get a feel for it."

After staying out of the fray last week, the Broncos have been busy bragging.

They proclaimed after the game that they're better than the Steel Curtain defense, the '85 Bears, the 2000 Ravens or the '02 Bucs.

"We're the greatest defense to ever play the game. Ever," linebacker Brandon Marshall declared. "It's a bold statement, but top to bottom, we have the greatest talent, from rusher to safeties to linebackers. Better than anybody's ever done it."

T.J. Ward contended that while the Panthers were seemingly more interested in the pre-game party, dancing and fame, the Broncos were all about winning this trophy. And in a nod to the old Brylcreem slogan, defensive coordinator Wade Phillips trolled the Panthers with a tweet "A little Dab will do you but too much Dab will undo you!"

The fun and frivolity will soon give way to fretting over how to do this all over again.

"We love being the underdogs," cornerback Aqib Talib said.

Good thing, because odds makers are already giving the Panthers, Patriots, Seahawks, Packers, Steelers and Cardinals better odds of winning the next Super Bowl, in Houston.

"That's been the story of our lives," receiver Emmanuel Sanders shrugged.

Donaldson, Blue Jays nearing $28.65M, 2-year deal

NEW YORK (AP) — AL MVP Josh Donaldson and the Toronto Blue Jays are nearing agreement on a $28.65 million, two-year contract, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press on Tuesday because the agreement had not been completed. The progress toward a deal was first reported by Sportsnet in Canada.

Donaldson and the Blue Jays had been scheduled for a salary arbitration hearing next week. The 30-year-old third baseman had asked for a raise from $4.3 million to $11.8 million and Toronto had offered $11.35 million when the sides exchanged proposed arbitration salaries last month.

Acquired from Oakland in November 2014, Donaldson made the AL All-Star team for the second straight season in 2015. He led the majors with 122 runs, topped the AL with 123 RBI, and hit .297 with 41 home runs to help the Blue Jays reach the playoffs for the first time since winning consecutive World Series in 1992 and `93.

He is eligible for free agency after the 2018 World Series.

Meanwhile, Houston Astros catcher Jason Castro became the first player to lose in salary arbitration this year.

Castro was awarded $5 million on Tuesday by arbitrators Matt Goldberg, Gary Kendellen and James Oldham , who heard arguments a day earlier. Castro had asked for a raise from $4 million to $5.25 million.

The 28-year-old was an All-Star in 2013. He hit .211 last season, his lowest average since his rookie season in 2010, and had 11 homers and 31 RBI. He made 102 starts at catcher and threw out 36 percent (24 of 66) of runners attempting to steal.

Castro started all six of Houston's postseason games and hit .063 (1 for 16).

Players are 3-1 in arbitration this year. The pitchers won their hearings: Toronto's Jesse Chavez ($4 million), Tampa Bay's Drew Smyly ($3.75 million) and Cincinnati's J.J. Hoover ($1.4 million).

SIDEBAR

Newton defends actions at Super Bowl: I will not conform

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Cam Newton isn't apologizing for acting like a "sore loser" after the Super Bowl.

The league's MVP has been widely criticized for walking out of a three-minute press conference after a 24-10 loss to the Denver Broncos on Sunday in which he answered questions with mostly one- and two-word responses while sulking in his chair wearing a black Carolina Panthers hoodie over his head.

"Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser," Newton said Tuesday as players cleaned out their lockers at the team's downtown stadium.

Newton said he believes the situation is being overblown by the media, and added he doesn't plan to change how he reacts to losing just to appease his critics.

"If I offended anybody that's cool, but I know who I am and I'm not about to conform nor bend for anybody's expectations because yours or anybody's expectations would never exceed mine," Newton said.

The quarterback went on to say, "Who are you to say that your way is right? I have all of these people who are condemning and saying this, that and the third, but what makes your way right?"

At one point during Newton's nearly seven-minute interview, his teammates walked behind the media gathered three-deep around his locker and starting saying, "We love you, Cam," and even sang him a song lightning the mood.

Newton said his emotions were raw after the game and he simply didn't want to talk to the media.

"When you invest so much time and sacrifice so much and things don't go as planned, I think emotions take over," Newton said. "I think that is what happens."

Panthers coach Ron Rivera said while he prefers his fifth-year quarterback would have handled the situation a little better, he understands where he is coming from and what he felt at the time.

"That's who he is. He hates to lose, that's the bottom line," Rivera said. "That is what you love in him. I would much rather have a guy who hates to lose than a guy who accepts it. The guy who accepts it, you might as well just push him out of your locker room because you don't want him around.

"That is a beauty of a guy like that - he wants to win and his teammates know it. That is what it is about. We don't play this game for a participation trophy. We want to win."

Newton takes losing harder than most.

In some past Carolina defeats, he's sat distraught at his locker still in his uniform for more than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the game. There are times it has taken him more than an hour before addressing the media.

Because this was the Super Bowl, Newton was forced into the interview room a little sooner than normal.

At one point, his attention appeared to drift to listening to Broncos players who were celebrating and talking about their win on the other side of the interview room.

Rivera suggested in the future Newton may need more time before addressing the media to get his emotions in check.

Curry leads Warriors to 42nd straight home win

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry had 35 points, nine assists and six rebounds and the Golden State Warriors relied on a signature putaway fourth quarter to hold off the Houston Rockets 123-110 on Tuesday night.

Andrew Bogut added 13 points, 11 rebounds, a season-high six blocked shots—three in the fourth—and three steals in one of his best games yet.

Andre Iguodala and Harrison Barnes hit back-to-back 3-pointers to start the fourth to get the defending champions going after the game was tied at 93 after the third.

Golden State won its 42nd straight regular-season home game and is 24-0 at Oracle Arena this season. The Warriors are within two home victories of matching the Chicago Bulls' NBA-record home winning streak of 44 games from March 30, 1995-April 4, 1996.

James Harden overcame a scoreless first quarter to finish with 37 points, five assists and five rebounds in Houston's eighth straight loss to Golden State.

Barnes added 19 points on 8-of-12 shooting and seven rebounds. The Warriors have their longest unbeaten run against the Rockets in the series since also winning eight in a row from Dec. 5, 1972, to Nov. 26, 1974. Golden State went 3-0 versus Houston to sweep the Rockets in consecutive seasons for the first time.

AP

Houston Rockets' James Harden, left, keeps the ball from Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

Houston opened the second half on an 8-0 run to go up 74-69 but couldn't capitalize as Curry made a pair of snazzy reverse layups in a span of 1 minute, 25 seconds. Bogut's hook shot at 7:01 gave Golden State the lead again then he immediately drew a charge on the other end.

Spurs 119, Heat 101

In Miami, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 28 points, Kawhi Leonard added 23 and the San Antonio Spurs got seven points on one possession in the fourth quarter to help them beat the Miami Heat 119-101 on Tuesday night.

Danny Green added 15 for the Spurs, who have won six straight over the Heat going back to the 2014 NBA Finals.

Dwyane Wade scored 20 points on 9 for 12 shooting for Miami, which goes into the All-Star break on a two-game slide. Chris Bosh scored 18 and Hassan Whiteside added 14 points and six rebounds before getting ejected in that pivotal possession in the fourth.

Whiteside was assessed a flagrant-2 for elbowing the Spurs' Boban Marjanovic as they tried to get position for a rebound. That was part of a seven-point trip for the Spurs, who pushed an 87-80 lead to 94-80 in 16 seconds and weren't threatened again.

Jazz 121, Mavericks 119, OT

In Dallas, Gordon Hayward hit a fadeaway jumper at the buzzer in overtime and Utah extended its season-best winning streak to seven games.

Rodney Hood had a tying 3-pointer with 1.5 seconds left in regulation as the Jazz ended a 10-game losing streak in Dallas. Their last win on the Mavericks' home court was Jan. 9, 2010.

Hood finished with 29 points, and Hayward had 20, including 13 in the second half and overtime.

Chandler Parsons led Dallas with 24 points but missed an open 3-pointer for the lead with 24 seconds left in the Mavericks' second straight overtime game and NBA-high eighth of the season.

Wizards 111, Knicks 108

In New York, John Wall had 28 points and 17 assists, Bradley Beal scored 26, and Washington beat New York in the Knicks' first game under Kurt Rambis.

Wall made four free throws in the final 6.6 seconds and the Wizards held on when Langston Galloway's 3-pointer at the buzzer was just short.

Carmelo Anthony had 33 points and 13 rebounds, but the Knicks lost their sixth straight in their first game since firing Derek Fisher on Monday. They have dropped 10 of 11 and started Rambis' era the same way Fisher's ended, by quickly falling in a huge early hole.

Rookie Kristaps Porzingis scored 20 points, but just two after his 14-point third quarter.

Bucks 112, Celtics 111

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton made one of two free throws with 0.6 seconds left and Milwaukee defeated Boston.

Middleton drew a foul on Avery Bradley to get to the line. Boston had tied the game when Kelly Olynyk made two free throws with one second remaining.

Milwaukee appeared to have won the game on Greg Monroe's last-second hook shot, giving the Bucks a 111-109 lead. Olynyk then drew the foul with no time expiring off the clock.

Monroe, who was removed from the starting lineup, had 29 points and 12 rebounds as the Bucks ended a five-game losing streak. Middleton had 20 points and Michael Carter-Williams, who also was benched, added 16.

Crowder and Bradley had 18 points each for the Celtics.

Clippers suspend Griffin four games without pay for punch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Griffin was suspended four games without pay on Tuesday for punching a team staff member, and the Los Angeles Clippers will dock the star forward's pay for an additional game because he broke his shooting hand.

In all, Griffin will lose $859,442 from his season salary of $18,907,725.

A team spokesman said the suspension will begin when Griffin is healthy, cleared to play and active. He was expected to be out four-to-six weeks while his hand heals from the Jan. 23 altercation in Toronto.

The spokesman said the fine was issued by the Clippers, with the NBA assisting in the investigation of the incident as well as in the disciplinary process. No other punishment from the league is expected.

The Clippers end a four-game road trip Wednesday night in Boston before the All-Star break this weekend. They resume play with a four-game homestand starting Feb. 18 against San Antonio.

The Clippers will donate Griffin's salary from the five games to charities that help disadvantaged youth in Los Angeles. The team said Griffin asked to donate his time to the organizations.

"We have made it clear that this conduct has no place in the Clippers organization," team owner Steve Ballmer and coach Doc Rivers said in a joint statement. "Blake is remorseful and has apologized for his actions. He is a valued member of our Clippers family and we support him as he rejoins the team."

Ballmer and Rivers, who also is president of basketball operations, said Griffin is eager to get back to work, which starts immediately with rehab, appearances and attendance at games.

Griffin has been away from the team since he punched assistant equipment manager Matias Testi last month. Testi has yet to rejoin the team, although he is expected to at some point.

The Clippers are 18-4 without Griffin, who has been out since Dec. 26 with a partially torn left quadriceps tendon. He was close to returning from that injury when he punched Testi, who sustained multiple facial injuries. Both men were sent back to Los Angeles, where Griffin underwent a procedure on his hand.

There was no immediate comment from Griffin. He has been off Twitter since Jan. 26 when he posted an apology on the social media site, where he is a frequent user. He and Testi are friends and Griffin described him as "someone I care about."

A person with knowledge of the incident said last month that Griffin and Testi got into an argument during dinner that escalated. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Clippers had not confirmed those details publicly. Rivers said later that both men had been drinking.

Heat retiring Shaq's No. 32 jersey next season

MIAMI (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal helped the Miami Heat put up their first championship banner, and soon another banner will sway over the team's home floor in his honor.

The Heat announced Tuesday that they will retire O'Neal's No. 32 at the beginning of next season on a still-to-be-determined date. He becomes the third player to get such a designation from the Heat, joining Alonzo Mourning and Tim Hardaway.

Miami is the second team to retire an O'Neal jersey. The Los Angeles Lakers retired the No. 34 he donned for that franchise.

"Shaquille O'Neal is one of the truly elite players in the history of the game and one of the greatest players to ever wear a Heat uniform," Heat President Pat Riley said. "He took us to another level as a basketball franchise while leading us to our first NBA championship."

Miami has also retired No. 23 in Michael Jordan's honor for contributions he made to basketball, but Jordan never played for the Heat.

While the breakup with O'Neal wasn't pleasant when he essentially forced Miami into trading him to Phoenix in 2008, the contributions that the Hall of Famer made to the franchise have never been questioned -- or forgotten. Among players with at least 1,000 field goals for Miami, no one has a better shooting percentage than O'Neal, who is fifth on the team's all-time list in blocks despite only playing with the Heat for 3 1/2 seasons.

"Retiring his number in the rafters, along with Heat greats Alonzo Mourning and Tim Hardaway, is something we are very proud of," Riley said.

Other numbers likely to be retired by the Heat in future years include Dwyane Wade's No. 3, LeBron James' No. 6 and Udonis Haslem's No. 40.

"That was a great time for Heat Nation and Heat history," coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Those were a fun two, three years. All the building blocks that (managing general partner Micky Arison) and Pat put in place, those great Heat teams that couldn't get over the hump, and then they brought in Shaq and it really felt like larger than life. It feels like the Heat have continued with that kind of mentality, so he had a great impact on the organization."

West Ham beats Liverpool to reach 5th round of FA Cup

LONDON (AP)—Angelo Ogbonna headed home a winning goal in stoppage time of extra time to give West Ham a dramatic 2-1 victory over Liverpool in their FA Cup fourth round replay on Tuesday.

Ogbonna's strike in the 121st minute at Upton Park earned West Ham a last-16 match at Championship team Blackburn Rovers.

"It is a special night for our club and I'm so proud and happy for our players and proud of everyone who has any connection with the club," manager Slaven Bilic said after West Ham's first ever FA Cup win against Liverpool.

"We scored a great header in the last second of the game, and we had injuries, and we overcame all of that. So that's why this game will go down in the history as one of the greatest nights and games for our club."

AP

West Ham's Angelo Ogbonna, hidden, celebrates with team mates after scoring the winning goal during the English FA Cup fourth round replay soccer match between West Ham United and Liverpool at the Boleyn Ground stadium in London, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016.

West Ham opened the scoring on the stroke of halftime when Ecuador striker Enner Valencia sent a ball across the Liverpool goal that was met with a volley by winger Michail Antonio.

Liverpool equalized from a free kick in the 48th minute after Pedro Obiang brought down striker Christian Benteke on the edge of the area.

Philippe Coutinho drove the ball low and hard under the wall to score, but the match remained deadlocked at 1-1 after 90 minutes. It then looked destined for a penalty shootout until Italy international Ogbonna grabbed the winner, meeting Dmitry Payet's curling free kick with a powerful header.

Liverpool had earlier been fortunate that a tug on Valencia by Tiago Ilori in the penalty box was ignored by referee Roger East in the 66th minute.

But it was less lucky with the performance of Benteke, who squandered a series of chances, either by missing the target or seeing his goal-bound efforts saved by Randolph, who was in fine form.

Liverpool fielded a much-changed team from the side that drew 2-2 with Sunderland in the Premier League on Sunday, but started off on the front foot, showing plenty of attacking intent.

Hyatt Charity Golf Classic set for April 23

Hyatt Regency Saipan is pleased to announce that the 20th Annual Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic will be held on April 23.

All golfers are invited to register. This year's event marks a very special occasion as it is the 20th anniversary of the competition. Overtime, the Charity Golf Classic has built a reputation as being one of the most enjoyable events held on the island and has continually evolved with ever-growing support from sponsors, players and volunteer associate.

This year the tournament will be held at LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's west course, known as the "more challenging" of the two courses at the resort showcasing Saipan's lush greenery. The recipients of the proceeds from the 20th Anniversary Charity Golf Classic will be formally announced on Feb. 23.

There has been an addition flight category—Championship (HDCP 0-5) bringing the total to six categories (A, B, C, Seniors and Ladies D. Peoria). The format of the tournament, nevertheless, will be the same; the lowest individual scores will count for prizes to be awarded for champion, first runner-up and second runner-up in each of the flight categories.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation has partnered with the Charity Golf Classic for many years being a recipient of the fundraiser in supporting the fulfillment of wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

As we proudly remember in 2014, in collaboration with sponsors and golfers, Hyatt Regency Saipan was able to help raise $40,000 which was donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and two other non-profit organizations—the The Ayuda Network and the CNMI Salvation Army to further support the local community.

On April 23, it is another opportunity for us to come together and test our or your golf caliber on the 18-hole course in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and another local nonprofit community member. Mark your calendar and register for the island's most enjoyable golf tournament—the 20th Annual Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic. ***(PR)***

Sheikh Salman urges one candidate in FIFA poll

PARIS (AP)—FIFA presidential candidate Sheikh Salman is calling on voters to agree on a single candidate ahead of the election.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday, Sheikh Salman dismissed suggestions that winning a contested election would give him a stronger mandate to lead world soccer's governing body.

"If we go to election there will be losers and maybe sometimes you need to avoid that result," he said.

The Bahraini royal and UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino are seen as front-runners among five candidates in the Feb. 26 vote.

Sheikh Salman said it was best for FIFA if "we have a clear indication on who will be elected."

"We have to be realistic. We know the chances of each candidate," said the Asian Football Confederation president, who has the majority backing of his own continent and from African soccer leaders. The two blocs count for 100 of the 209 FIFA voting federations.

"Every day we calculate. I am sure that, of course, it is positive," Sheikh Salman said. "I hope that Europe looks at it from an organizational point of view, and not an individual, on what is best.

"And if there is an agreement then I think it is a win-win. Everybody is involved and everybody has a share of the power and gets involved in the decision-making. But everybody has the right to run and go ahead. It is not up to me to decide on that."

Basketball leagues meeting Friday

There is another meeting for both the Inter-Government/ Business League and Island-wide Men's Basketball League this Friday at 5pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Agenda includes confirmation of teams, entree fees, registration forms, and opening dates. To date there are 11 teams in the Inter-Government/ Business League and nine teams for the other league. Tentative opening dates are March 1 for Inter-Government/ Business League and March 2 for the Island-wide Men's Basketball League.

All leagues under MIBF will have all statistics recorded for end of league awards and year-end banquets. This statistics will assist our federation in future selection of athletes of the year and Hall of Fame nominees.

For more information, contact Elias Rangamar at 287-6347 or email at eli_rang@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

RENATA

From Page 28

joined the Ironman 70.3 in Geelong, Australia last week and also participated in MTB races in the Land Down last month.

Meanwhile, Ben Allen told *Saipan Tribune* that they may miss next month's event due to monetary constraints.

Jacqui and I haven't yet fully decided on the race on Saipan. It's one of favorite races on the tour. But this year we may have to give it a miss unfortunately! Sorry to tell you of this sad news, but limited funds with travel expenses has been the main contributing factor. I hope everyone that races has an absolute ball and enjoys everything Saipan has to offer," said Allen, who ruled XTERRA Saipan from 2012 to last year.

Allen clocked in at 2:40:25 in the 2015 XTERRA Saipan to beat South Africa's Bradley Weiss (2:46:45) and six other pros. Allen and Weiss met anew at the start of the 2016 XTERRA Tour via XTERRA Albay (Philippines) and the South African pro finally defeated the Australian triathlon, who had a bad crash in the bike leg. Weiss finished the Albay race more than four minutes ahead of Allen, 2:29:56 to 2:33:59.

"I'm OK, just some sore muscles and took some skin off. I'll live to fight another day," Allen said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

In related news, Kelli Wedd of Pivot24, which is in charge of XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman (March 5) registrations, said Carey, the Philippines' Joe Miller, and Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara will join next month's off-road race and they are will be waiting for confirmation from some Guam pros.

NMSA

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is also calling on the Saipan Little League Baseball to help NMSA staff make some minor repairs and cleaning jobs at the "Tan Ko" and "Tan Ge" fields so the league can start its 2016 season. SLLB was originally scheduled to kick off this Saturday, but the opening has been moved to Feb. 27.

"For now, while waiting for the lights to be fixed, all Little League games will have to be played on Saturday and Sunday. If they want to help make minor repairs and clean the field, they are more than welcome to do so," Rogolifoi said.

The NMSA executive director added that the timing of the repair works at the complex is great as the CNMI prepares for the hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

"We have to start moving now and get our facilities ready so we can ensure the successful hosting of the Games," Rogolifoi said.

WOMEN'S

From Page 28

World Resort, 2-0.

Peter Oh and Brand Ohng nailed one goal apiece for the Thundercats with the former scoring in the 38th minute and the latter in the 46th.

There are two more teams entered in Division 2 with idle Kanoa FC and Sun Palace joining the Thundercats, World Resort, Women's National Team, and Shirley's FC.

Kanoa will have its season debut this Saturday when it faces Shirley's at 4:30pm. Sun Palace will also play its first game of the seasom this weekend when it taks on World Resort on Sunday at 4:30pm. One more Division 2 match will be played this Sunday with WNT battling the Thundercats at 1:30pm.

Meanwhile, Paire FC/Inter Godfather's had a rousing start in the lone Division 1 game last weekend as it crushed Matansa, 7-1.

Yogesh Singh starred in the easy win after making a hattrick, which came in succession in the second half. Chris Nelson, Ajani Burrel, William Dunn, and Dave Bush chipped in one goal apiece. Young Ha Hwang tallied the lone goal for Matansa.

Three other squads will be playing in Division 1 with MP United, Tan Holdings, and Korean Football Association on Saipan completing the list.

MP United will see action for the first time this season against Paire on Sunday afternoon, while KFAS will collide against Matansa in the other Division 1 match this Sunday at 3pm. Tan Holdings has a bye in Week 2 of the league and will have its first game on Feb. 21 versus Matansa at 3pm.

2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic Week 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A.J. Hudkins goes for a backhand return against Steven Goodwin during their boys U16 singles game in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Carol Lee waits for Vincent Tudela's serve.

Jim Tuttle returns to Jeff Race and Allan Lee during a mixed-up doubles Round of 16 match.

Robbie Schorr hits a baseline return.

Mihoko Tuttle makes a baseline return to Grace Choi and Robbie Schorr during a warm-up for their mixed-up doubles game.

Jeffrey Seo serves to Ji Min Woo.

Ji Min Woo has all eyes on the ball during a warm-up in his and Mihoko Tuttle's match against Grace Choi and Robbie Schorr.

Maaya Sato stretches to receive a shot from Maria Gregoire during their girls U12 singles game.

Ericka Tuttle concentrates before making a serve to Rei Sekiguchi.

Broncos revel in parade amid issues on Manning, Miller

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Curry leads Warriors to 42nd straight home win

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Renata in, Ben and Jacqui out

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Swiss pro Renata Bucher waves to the crowd as she runs along the shore of Micro Beach during the 2014 XTERRA Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2016 XTERRA Saipan Championship will be with a former winner, but without the defending champions.

Seven-time XTERRA Saipan champion Renata Bucher confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she will be back to participate in the March 12 competition, while Ben Allen along with his fiancée Jacqui Slack may not be able to make the trip to the island to defend the men's and women's titles.

"We' re looking forward to seeing our friends on the island and will do our best racing," said Bucher, who will return to Saipan with Australia's Belinda Hadden.

The Swiss triathlete ruled the Crown Jewel of XTERRA Tour from 2005 to 2010 before her streak was snapped by Austria's Carina Wasle in 2011. Bucher regained her crown in 2012 to win XTERRA Saipan for a record seventh time.

Though she is favored to win her eighth title next month with Slack out and organizers still waiting for confirmation from other off-island pros, including Wasle, Bucher does not want to be complacent.

"On this course, you never know what can happen. I am not racing against anyone, it's all about challenging myself and getting through this very tough course safe and fast," said Bucher.

The Lucerne native placed fourth in last year's XTERRA behind Slack (3:02:01), Wasle (3:07:33), and former Saipan pro Mieko Carey (3:20:45) after timing in at 3:22:11 and racing through pain due to a nagging knee injury.

Bucher is now injury free and competed in a couple of races in the first two months of 2016 to prepare for XTERRA Tour. She

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Women's National Team tops Shirley's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Women's National Team won the opening game in the spring season of the 2016 M-League after downing Shirley's Football Club, 3-2, last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The Commonwealth's women's crew registered two early goals to gain cushion against Shirley's en route to start its bid in Division 2 on a positive note. Jeralyn Castillo recorded WNT's first goal as she found the back of the net in the eighth minute, while Irish Pagarao handed the team its second goal seven minutes later. Shirley's FC also hit the board in the first half, courtesy of Jack Phan's shot in the 20th minute.

In the second half, Castillo scored anew for the insurance, while Rodwealth Espana sliced the deficit to one again with his goal in the last three minutes of the match. Castillo and company hung in there, challenging a couple of attempts from Shirley's in the closing minutes of the game.

In other Division 2 results, the Thundercats shut down

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Women's National Team's Jeralyn Castillo, right, uses her arm to ward off the defense of Shirley's FC's Muneaki Arai during the second half of their Division 2 game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

NMSA waits for RFP on Oleai complex repairs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It will still take a month or two before a request for proposal is made for the repair works at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi, who is coordinating the project with the Department of Public Works and Capital Improvements Project, said during the NMSA meeting last Thursday that the person in charge in preparing the RFP is off-island.

"The director of the technical division is off-island and will be working on the RFP documents when he gets back. I am told it we have to wait for a month or two for the RFP to be made and then they will have to wait again for the bids before the repair works at the complex move forward," Rogolifoi said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has allotted $488,556 for the project, which involves improvements and repairs at the various facilities inside the complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The damaged batting cage at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacos Ballfield will be fixed this year.

At the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, Rogolifoi said they will fix the fence around the pitch. The batting cage, which crumpled when Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan in August last year, will also be rebuilt, while lights will be replaced.

Over at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, poles that fell need to be replaced, while the bullpens, fence, and bleachers also need repairs.

The flooring and ceiling will be the focus of repair works at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Repainting may also be done, while a metal door to the south side is also proposed. A new PA system and scoreboard are also needed.

Rogolifoi is asking for the public's patience, as it will take time to get the repairs done. He

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